Action Comics
comic HIGH!'s brand

つぐもも 5

浜田よしかづ

High
Action Comics

つぐもも 5

浜田よしかづ

双葉社

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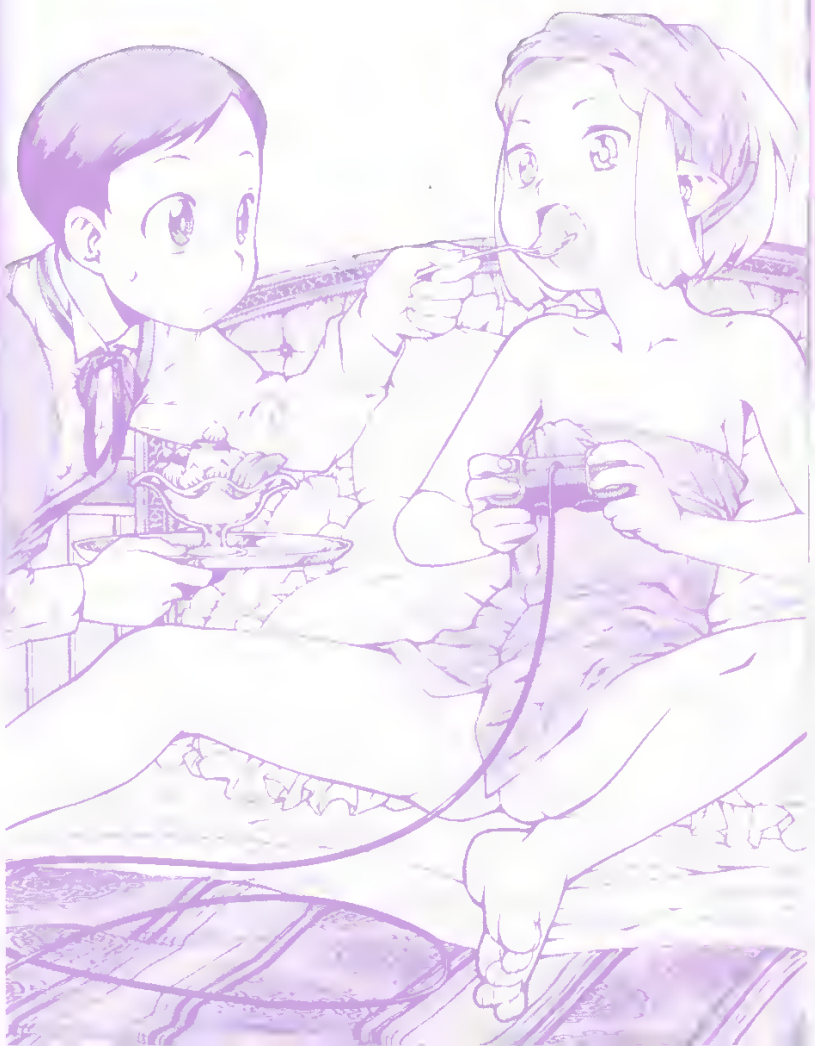
定価：本体600円＋税

「そそはらい」の座をかけて、
凛々しき美少女剣士
すなおとの決戦に挑む、かずやと桐著。
戦いへの覚悟を浅き、自らと
猿姫にすることを願わぬよう命じる桐著に、
「桐著さんも大事だから」決意を新たにするかずや。
2人の想いが結ばった戦いの行く末は!?
「そそはらい」同士の大バトルは
帯の我と刀の我が戴びかい返力満点!
桐著にくくりに重服の
ちょっぴりえなもう)エッチな
特別描き下ろしもバッチリ収録。
本格アクションと美少女萌えの
両方を思いっきり楽しめる
和風美少女アクションメディ第3弾!!

浜田よしかづ

海作ドラマDVDを購入して
だらだら流しつつ仕事するのが
マイブームになりつつあります。
自分好みの作品を
探すのが大変です。

Action Comics
COMIC HIGH!'S BRAND



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Tsugumomo by HAMADA Yoshikazu

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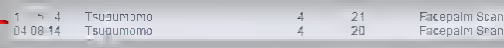

who reads this shit anyways

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浜田よしかづ

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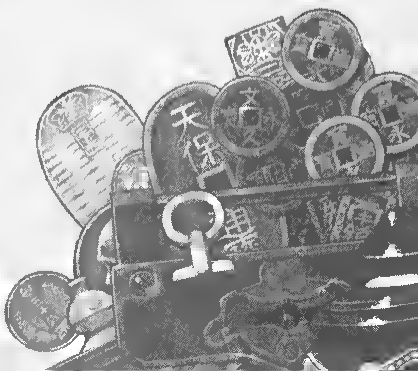
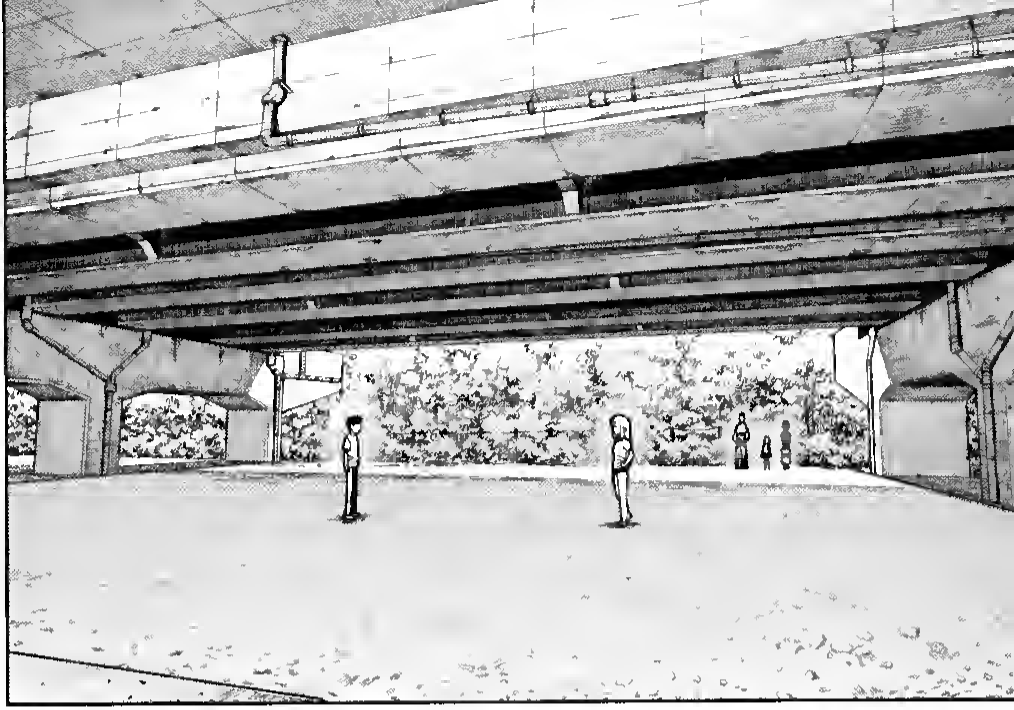
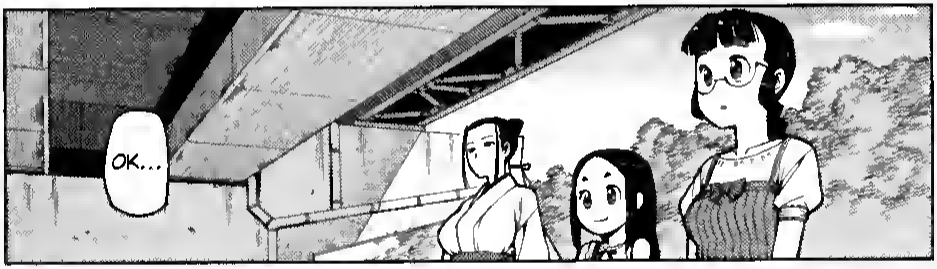
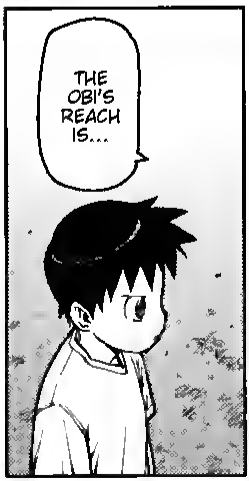
WEBコミックハイ！　'10年2月19日～10月20日配信
コミックハイ！　'10年6月号掲載



Chapter 24 Night Before the Confrontation



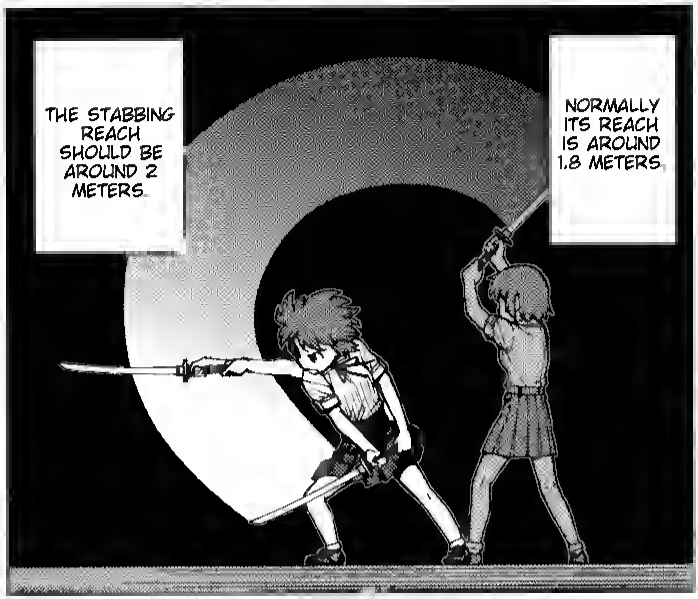

OK...

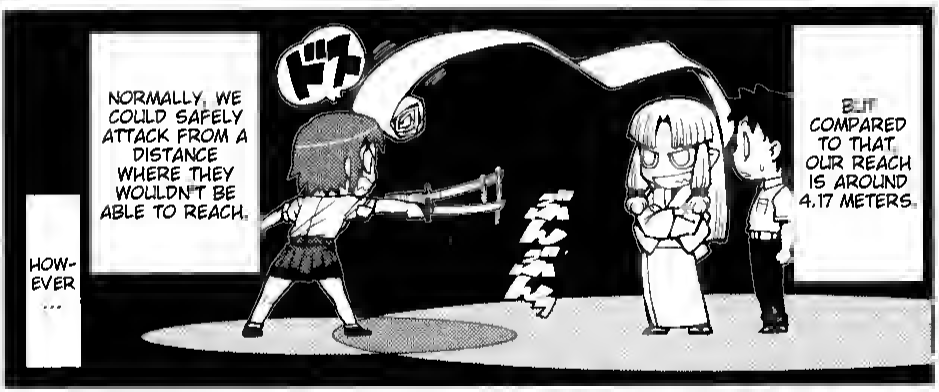

THE OBI'S REACH IS...

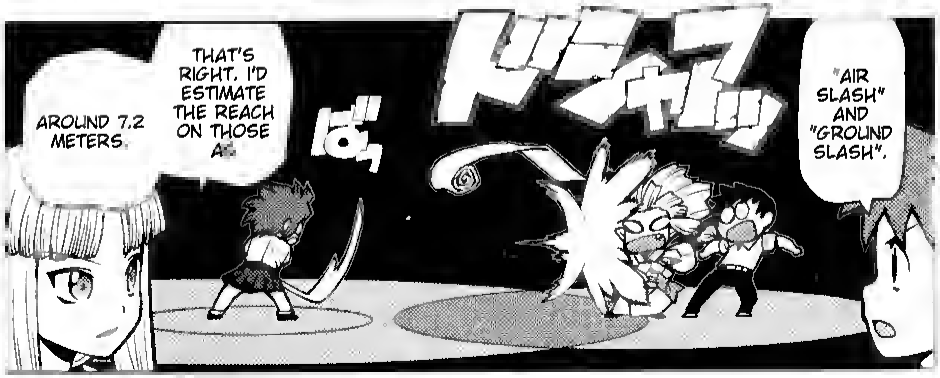
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, RIGHT?

4.17 METERS!
SLIDE
ビヴァッ
ッ?
BUT THE PROBLEM ISN'T THE OPPONENT'S REACH.
HEHE. YEAH, IT DID.
HMM, YOUR BODY DEFINITELY GOT USED TO IT.

SUNAO'S WEAPON IS A "SWORD".

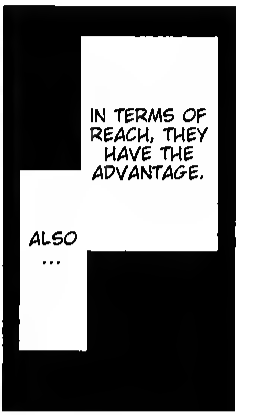

NORMALLY ITS REACH IS AROUND 1.8 METERS.
THE STABBING REACH SHOULD BE AROUND 2 METERS.


BUT COMPARED TO THAT, OUR REACH IS AROUND 4.17 METERS.
ドン
NORMALLY, WE COULD SAFELY ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE WHERE THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REACH.
HOW-EVER ...


"AIR SLASH" AND "GROUND SLASH".
ドシャアッ
ばっ
THAT'S RIGHT. I'D ESTIMATE THE REACH ON THOSE AT
AROUND 7.2 METERS.

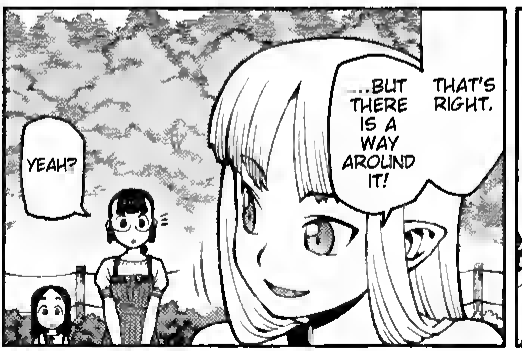
I AM A TSUMO-GAMI BASED ON THE OBI.
SO IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THINGS LIKE NORMAL NEEDLES
AND KNIVES TO TEAR ME.

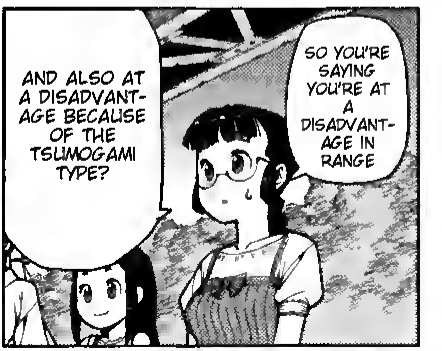
TSUMO-GAMI'S ADVANTAGE !!

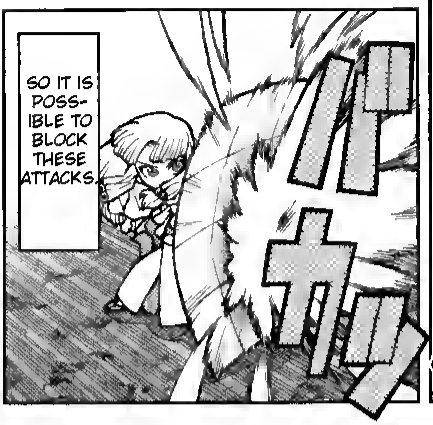

IN TERMS OF REACH, THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.
ALSO ...

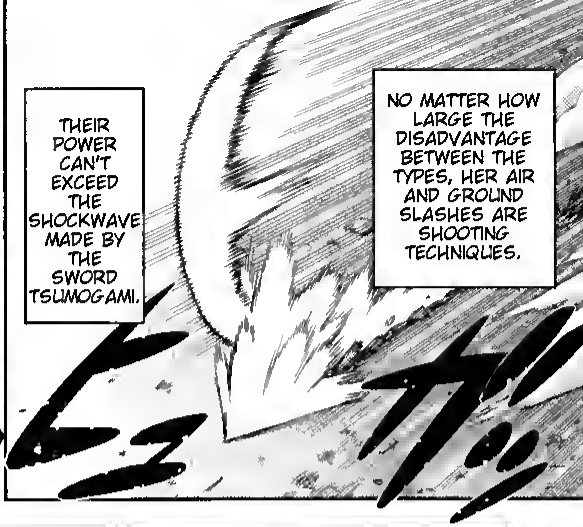
LIKE A NORMAL KIMONO IS TORN BY A NORMAL SWORD
A TSUMO-GAMI-BASED KIMONO IS EASILY TORN BY A TSUMOGAMI-BASED SWORD.

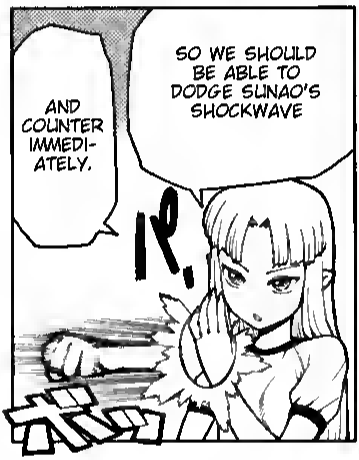
HOWEVER, OUR OPPONENT IS A SWORD.
THAT CHANGES THINGS.


THAT'S RIGHT.
...BUT THERE IS A WAY AROUND IT!
YEAH?


SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE AT A DISADVANT-AGE IN RANGE
AND ALSO AT A DISADVANT-AGE BECAUSE OF THE TSUMOGAMI TYPE?


SO IT IS POSS-IBLE TO BLOCK THESE ATTACKS.


THEIR POWER CAN'T EXCEED THE SHOCKWAVE MADE BY THE SWORD TSUMOGAMI.
NO MATTER HOW LARGE THE DISADVANTAGE BETWEEN THE TYPES, HER AIR AND GROUND SLASHES ARE SHOOTING TECHNIQUES.

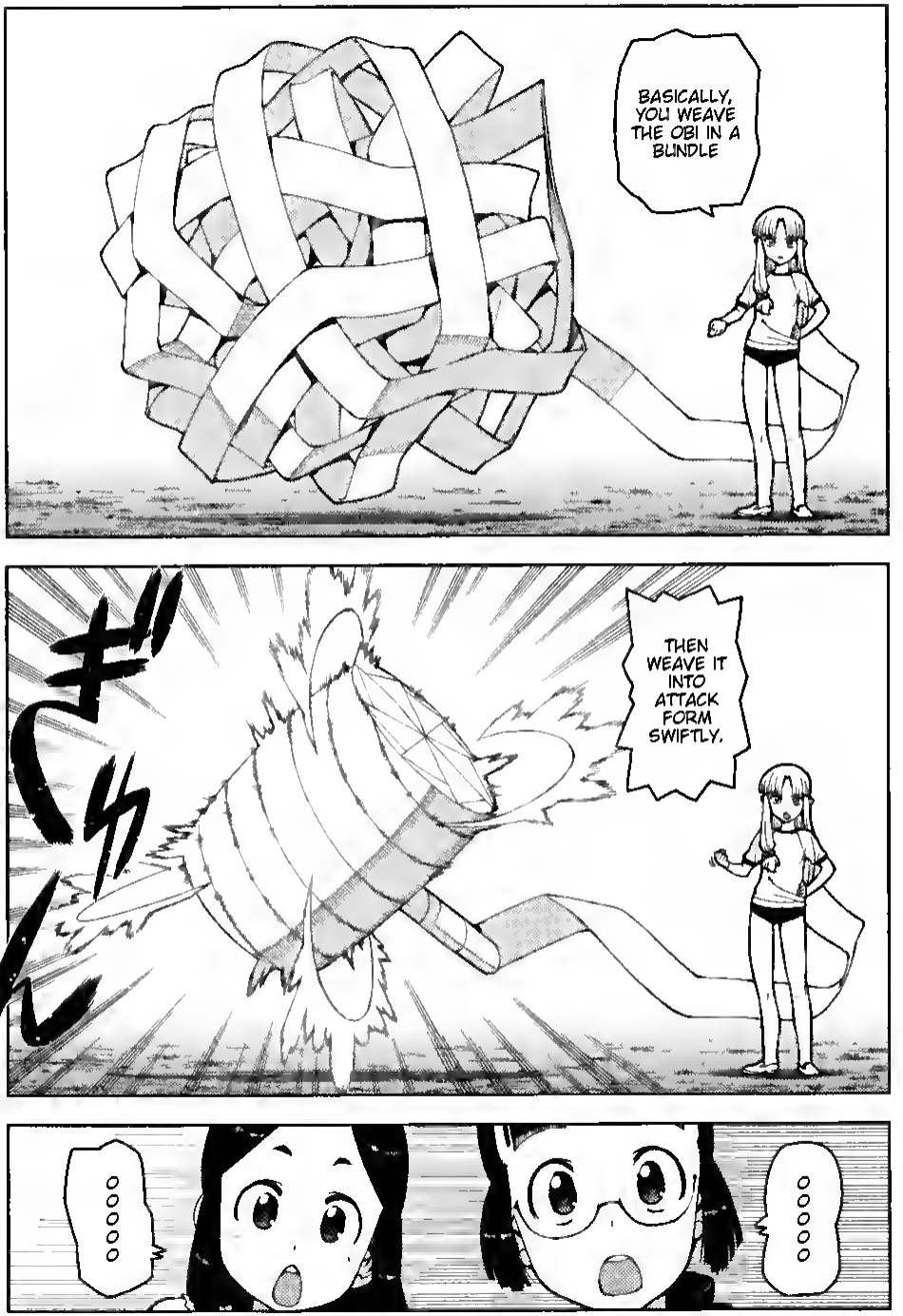

SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DODGE SUNAO'S SHOCKWAVE
AND COUNTER IMMEDI-ATELY.

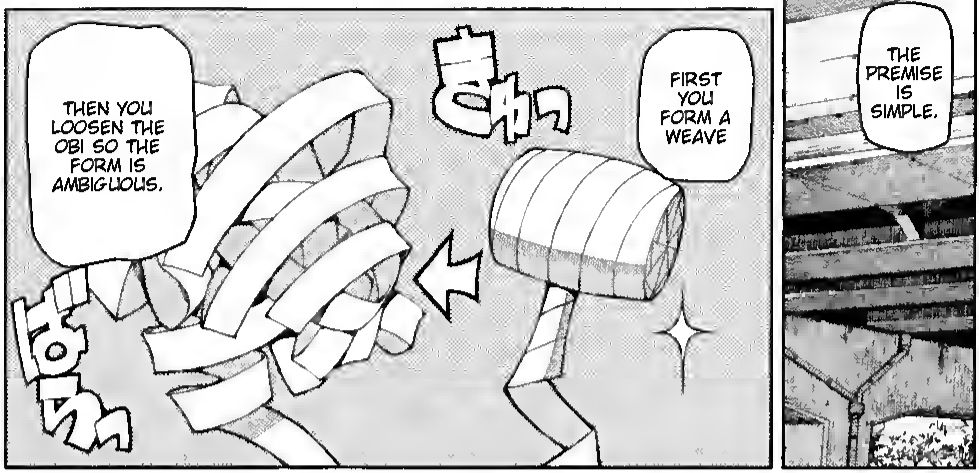
ALSO, THERE ARE SMALL OPENINGS BETWEEN THESE ATTACKS, SO SHE CAN'T SPAM THEM.

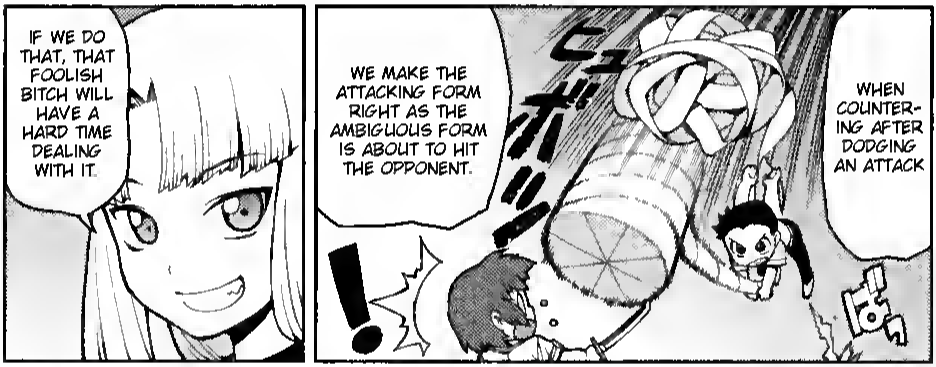
I HAVE PLANS FOR THAT AS WELL.

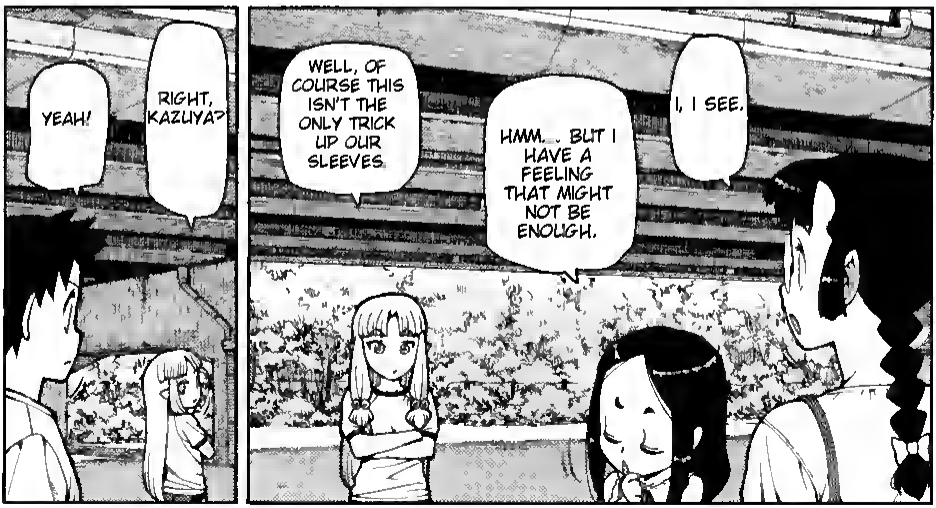
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOOK FOR AN OPENING, IF SHE KNOWS COUNTER-MEASURES FOR THOSE...
BUT SUNAO KNOWS MOST OF THE OBI TECHNIQUES KIRIHA USES.

先の先
先の後
後の先
I GET IT! IT'S LIKE WAITING FOR AN OPENING!

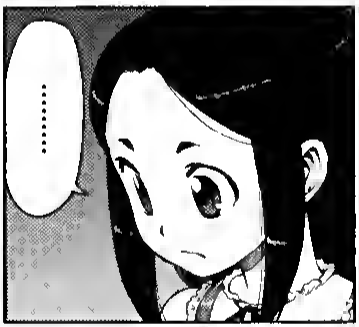

BASICALLY, YOU WEAVE THE OBI IN A BUNDLE
THEN WEAVE IT INTO ATTACK FORM SWIFTLY.
ぎゅん
oooo
oooo


THE PREMISE IS SIMPLE.
FIRST YOU FORM A WEAVE
THEN YOU LOOSEN THE OBI SO THE FORM IS AMBIGUOUS.

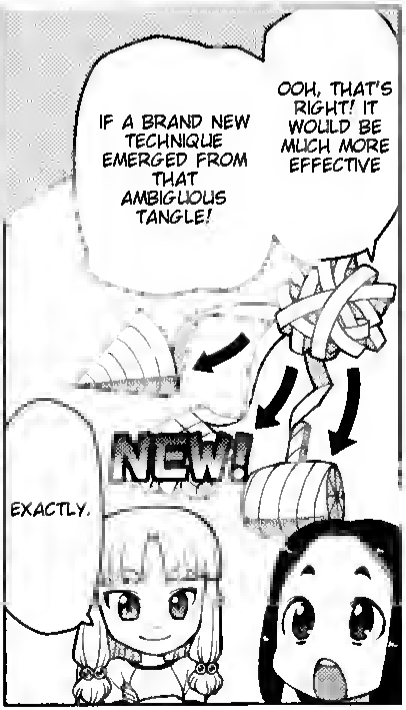

WHEN COUNTER-ING AFTER DODGING AN ATTACK
WE MAKE THE ATTACKING FORM RIGHT AS THE AMBIGUOUS FORM IS ABOUT TO HIT THE OPPONENT.
IF WE DO THAT, THAT FOOLISH BITCH WILL HAVE A HARD TIME DEALING WITH IT.

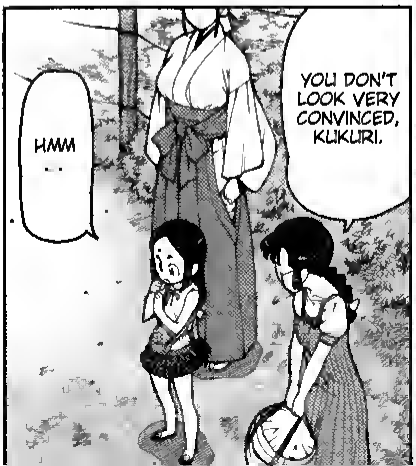

I, I SEE.
HMM... BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH.
WELL, OF COURSE THIS ISN'T THE ONLY TRICK UP OUR SLEEVES.
RIGHT, KAZUYA?
YEAH!

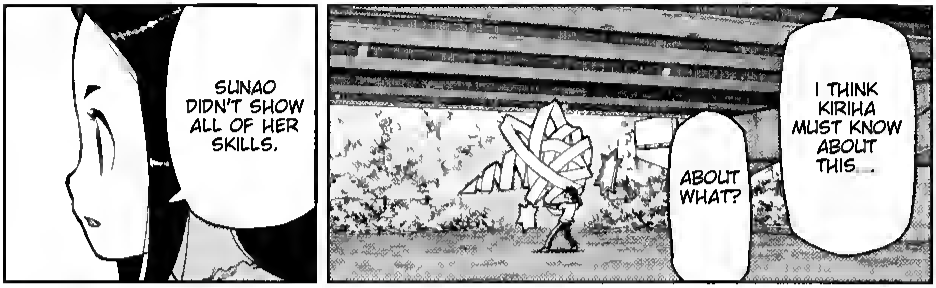
I'VE THOUGHT OF SOME NEW OBI TECHNIQUES.
ARM WEAVE
HARD WEAVE
BOW WEAVE


.....

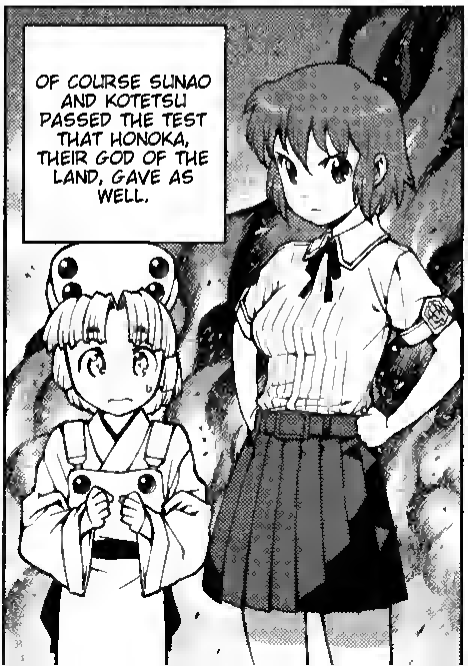
OK, KAZUYA! THEN FROM NOW ON, IT'S SPECIAL TRAINING!
OK!

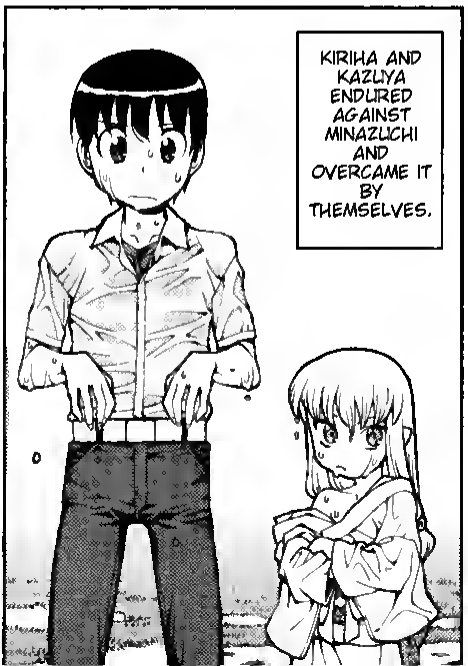

OOH, THAT'S RIGHT! IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE
IF A BRAND NEW TECHNIQUE EMERGED FROM THAT AMBIGUOUS TANGLE!
NEW!
EXACTLY.

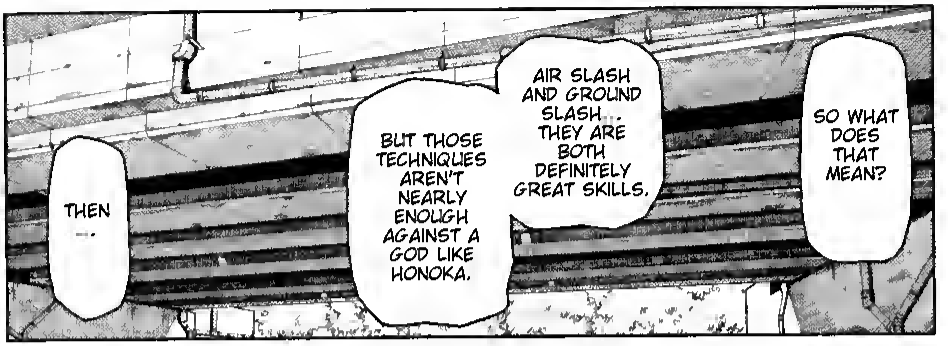

YOU DON'T LOOK VERY CONVINCED, KUKURI.
HMM...


SUNAO DIDN'T SHOW ALL OF HER SKILLS.
I THINK KIRIHA MUST KNOW ABOUT THIS...
ABOUT WHAT?

TO BE QUALIFIED AS AN EXORCIST,
THEY WOULD NEED TO PASS THE TEST GIVEN BY THAT AREA'S GOD.

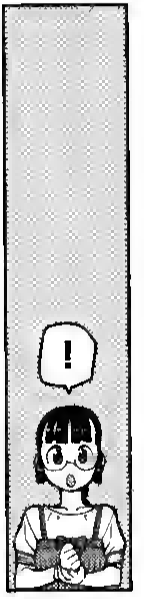

OF COURSE SUNAO AND KOTETSU PASSED THE TEST THAT HONOKA, THEIR GOD OF THE LAND, GAVE AS WELL.


KIRIHA AND KAZUYA ENDURED AGAINST MINAZUCHI AND OVERCAME IT BY THEMSELVES.


THEN...
BUT THOSE TECHNIQUES AREN'T NEARLY ENOUGH AGAINST A GOD LIKE HONOKA.
AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH... THEY ARE BOTH DEFINITELY GREAT SKILLS.
SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

NO MATTER HOW FAIRLY THEY WANT TO DUEL, THEY WOULDN'T REVEAL THOSE SECRETS.

THAT'S RIGHT!
THEY'RE HIDING THE TECHNIQUES THEY USED AGAINST HONOKA!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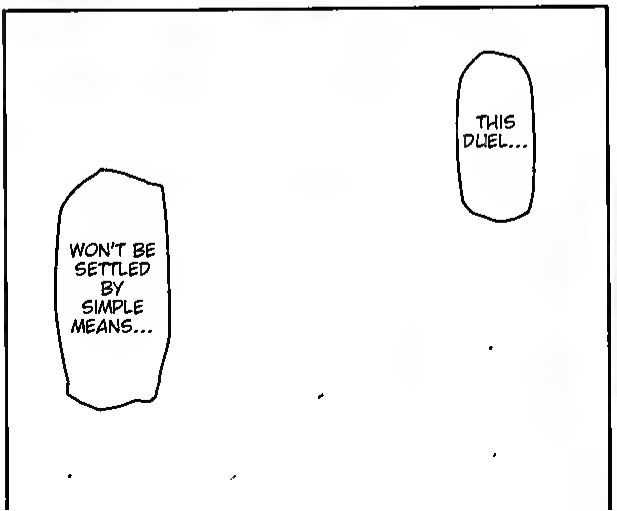
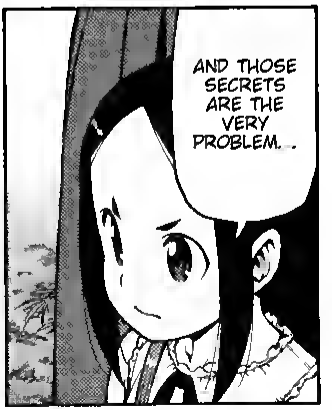
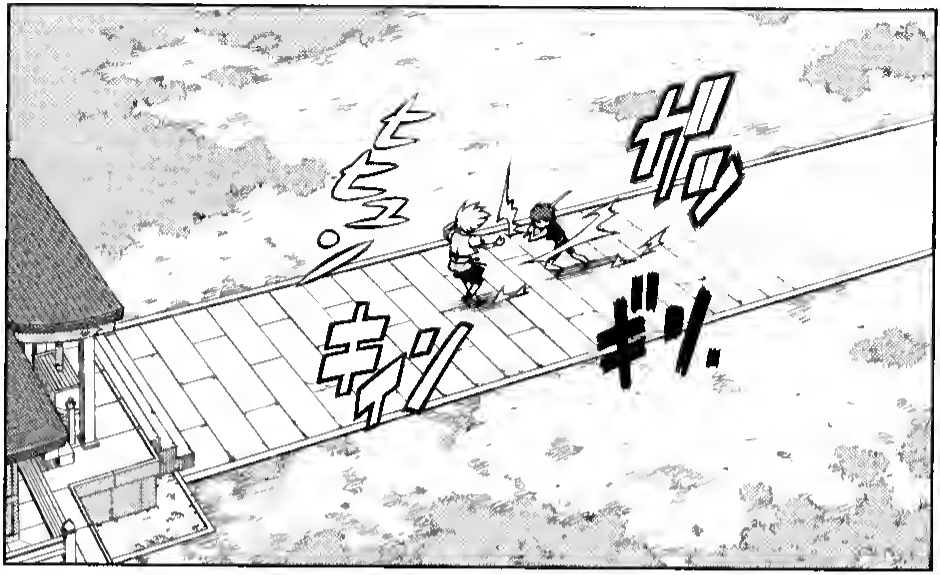
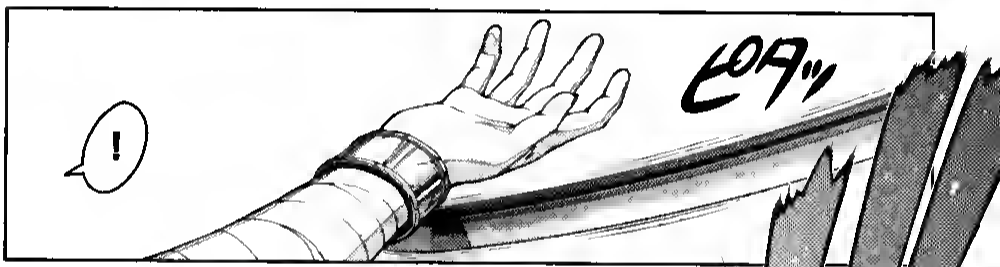

WON'T BE SETTLED BY SIMPLE MEANS...
THIS DUEL...


AND THOSE SECRETS ARE THE VERY PROBLEM...


ガッ
ギリ
ヒュン
ヒュン


!
ピタッ

ヒュ

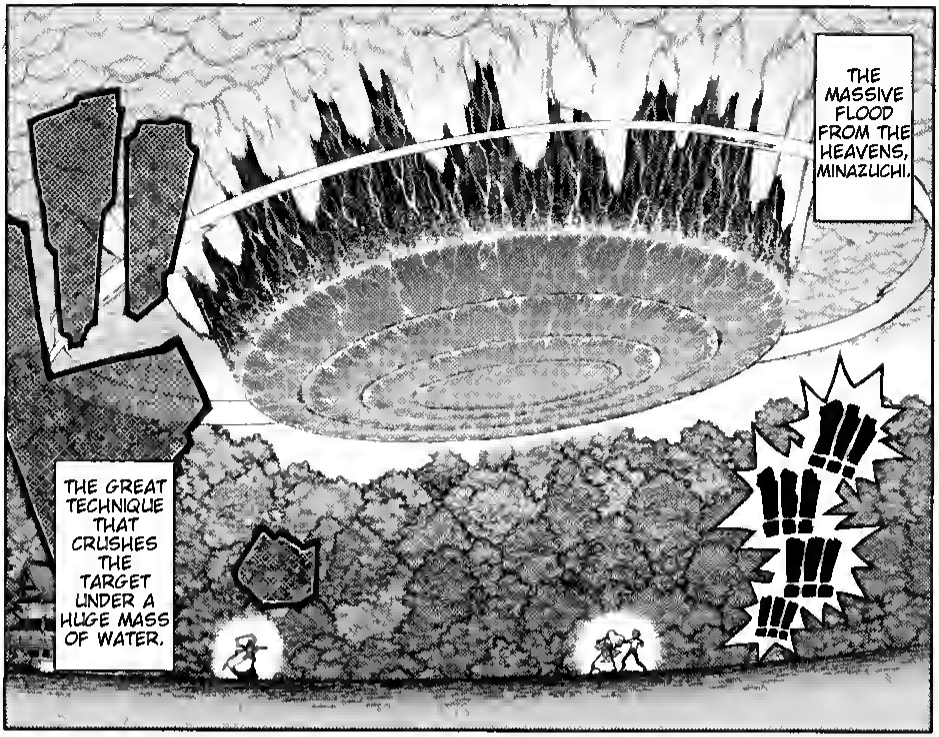
THE POWER IS GOOD.
NOW, DON'T GIVE YOUR OPPONENT ANY OPENINGS!
ニヤッ

TO BLOCK WITH THE HANDLE... HOW ELEGANT

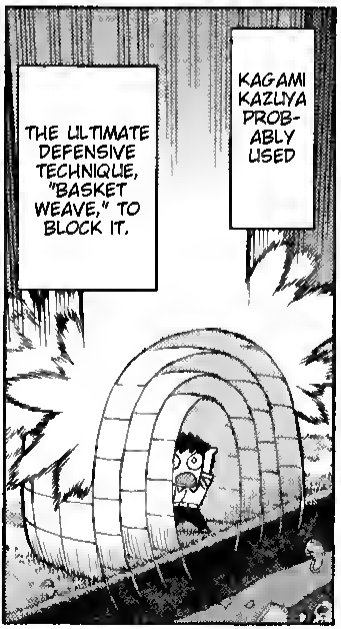
THINK NOTHING OF IT. I GOT SOME GOOD EXERCISE ANYWAY.
THANK YOU.
HAH, THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU. WHAT DO YOU BASE THAT ON?
MY VICTORY IS ASSURED!
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR CHANCES?
E-EXCUSE ME...
AHH, I SEE.
BUT I'LL STILL USE ALL MY STRENGTH TO CRUSH THEM.
EVEN WITH A WEEK TO PREPARE, IT'S HOPELESS FOR THEM.
ALSO, I WAS ABLE TO GAUGE THEIR SKILLS WHEN I TESTED THEM.
BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO FIGHT WITH KANAKA FOR SO LONG, I KNOW MOST OF THE OBI TECHNIQUES.

C-COULD I JUST SAY ONE THING, SUNAO?
ぎゅっ
WHAT, KOTETSU? I'M TALKING WITH HONOKA. SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
S-SORRY! BUT...
ビクッ
YOU STILL HAVE THAT CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE TO YOUR OWN TSUGUMOMO ...
HE SEEMS TO WANT TO GIVE YOU A SUGGESTION?
TSUGUMOMO ARE JUST TOOLS.
EHHHH, IT COULDN'T HURT.
OK, KOTETSU, YOU MAY SPEAK.
AH, OK .. THANK YOU.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T COMPARE TO SUNAO
KAGAMI KAZUYA IS AN EXORCIST TOO...
SO THEY WOULD HAVE PASSED THEIR GOD'S TEST AS WELL.

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO NOT LOOK DOWN ON THEM...
Y-YES... S-SO...
THEY OBVIOUSLY NEEDED SOME DEGREE OF WISDOM OR TECHNIQUE TO PASS IT.
HMM, THAT'S RIGHT. THE TEST OF A LAND'S DEITY IS PRETTY HARSH.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DOUBT ME!?
HEEEEEE! SORRY! SORRY!!
ゴゴゴゴ
ビクッ!!
YOU REALLY THINK I OVERLOOKED SOMETHING THAT EVEN YOU COULD SEE?
THAT LAND'S DEITY, KUKURI, IS A GOD OF WATER.
SHE OBVIOUSLY TESTED KAGUMI KAZUYA WITH THE WATER'S POWER.
SHE PROBABLY USED THAT TECHNIQUE


THE MASSIVE FLOOD FROM THE HEAVENS, MINAZUCHI.
THE GREAT TECHNIQUE THAT CRUSHES THE TARGET UNDER A HUGE MASS OF WATER.

IF HE ERECTS A DEFENSIVE BARRIER, IT'S WAY TOO EASY TO BEAT BY TEARING IT APART WITH A SWORD.
HOWEVER, THAT TECHNIQUE HAS THE HUGE DISAD-VANTAGE OF RENDERING ITS USER IMMOBILE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M NOT VERY WORRIED ABOUT IT.


THE ULTIMATE DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUE, "BASKET WEAVE," TO BLOCK IT.
KAGAMI KAZUYA PROB-ABLY USED

TO ADD TO THAT, THE OBI'S COMPATABILITY IS JUST TOO GOOD
SINCE THIS TSUMOGAMI'S BIGGEST STRENGTH IS DEFENCE.

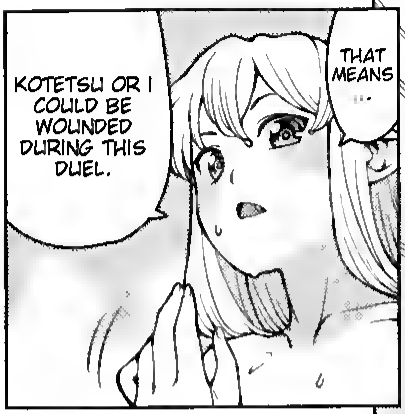
.....
TOOLS JUST NEED TO FOLLOW MY COMMANDS.
DON'T THINK ABOUT USELESS THINGS.
HMM ...
O-OK ...
SORRY ...
SU-NAO
AS AN EXORCIST, NOT MANY CAN MATCH YOUR SKILLS...
HOWEVER, IF YOU LOSE...
THE REASON WILL PROB-ABLY BE...

AAAAH!
BUT ...
B-
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BE EMBAR-ASSED ABOUT AFTER COMING THIS FAR?
WHAT, WHAT?
!!!

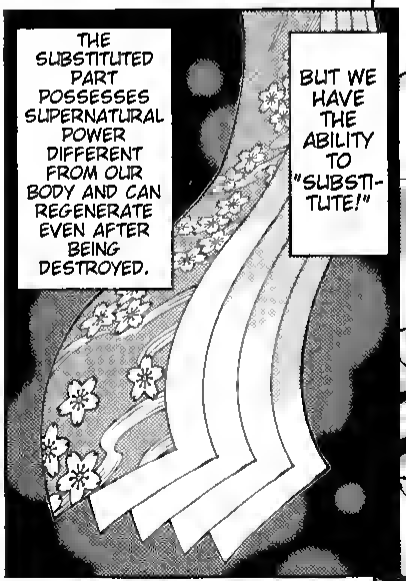
ハミャア
HYA!
カミィ!!
HEY! YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD!
EMBARASSING THINGS ARE EMBARASSING!
ちゃぽ。
THIS PERSON DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO BE EMBARASSED...
ぽちゃっ
KAZUYA, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT KUKURI SAID?
HUH?
OK...

BUT IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR ONE OF YOU TO GET WOUNDED OR DIE!
I WILL WATCH OVER YOUR DUEL!
OK. I UNDER-STAND!
BEFORE THE DECLARA-TION OF SUNAO'S DUEL
SO I WILL GIVE YOU THESE!
WHAT ARE THESE? AREN'T THESE ADULT TOYS?
THEY ARE NOT!!

WATER DOLLS.
-HEM-
BUT OBVIOUSLY WE CAN'T JUST LET THEM KILL EACH OTHER.
THERE HAVE BEEN DUELS BETWEEN EXORCISTS IN THE PAST.
HMM~ LISTEN WELL~
WHAT ARE THOSE?
SO WE WILL USE THESE AGAIN. ISN'T THAT A GOOD IDEA?
INSTEAD, DURING DUELS WE GIVE BOTH OF THEM WATER DOLLS
AND THE DOLLS ARE DAMAGED INSTEAD.
ケロッ
HOWEVER

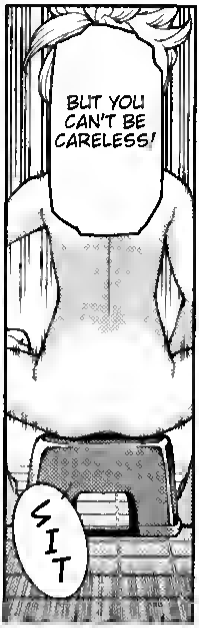

KOTETSU OR I COULD BE WOUNDED DURING THIS DUEL.
THAT MEANS...

.....!
IN THE WORST CASE, WE COULD EVEN BE DESTROYED.

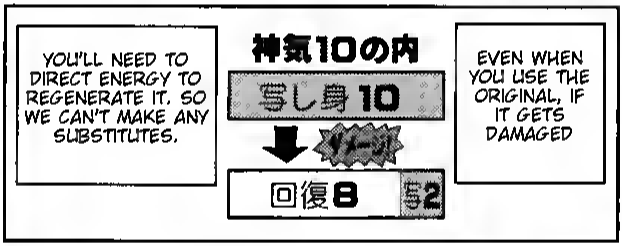

THE SUBSTITUTED PART POSSESSES SUPERNATURAL POWER DIFFERENT FROM OUR BODY AND CAN REGENERATE EVEN AFTER BEING DESTROYED.
BUT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO "SUBSTITUTE!"

HOWEVER, THE WATER DOLL ONLY PROTECTS THE OWNER!
ドル口
バシャ

カッ
ORIGINAL
SUBSTITUTE
ガッ
LIKE SUNAO'S "AIR SLASH," ATTACKS FROM THE SUBSTITUTE OBI AREN'T AS STRONG.
SO IT DOESN'T MATCH UP TO THE ORIGINAL, IN EITHER OFFENSE OR DEFENSE.


BUT YOU CAN'T BE CARELESS!
SIT

IF YOU MESS UP, YOU MAY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THE ORIGINAL.
しゅん

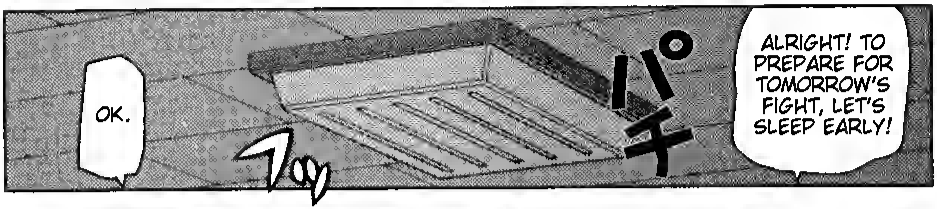

YOU'LL NEED TO DIRECT ENERGY TO REGENERATE IT. SO WE CAN'T MAKE ANY SUBSTITUTES.
神気10の内
弓し身10
ダメージ
回復8
52
EVEN WHEN YOU USE THE ORIGINAL, IF IT GETS DAMAGED

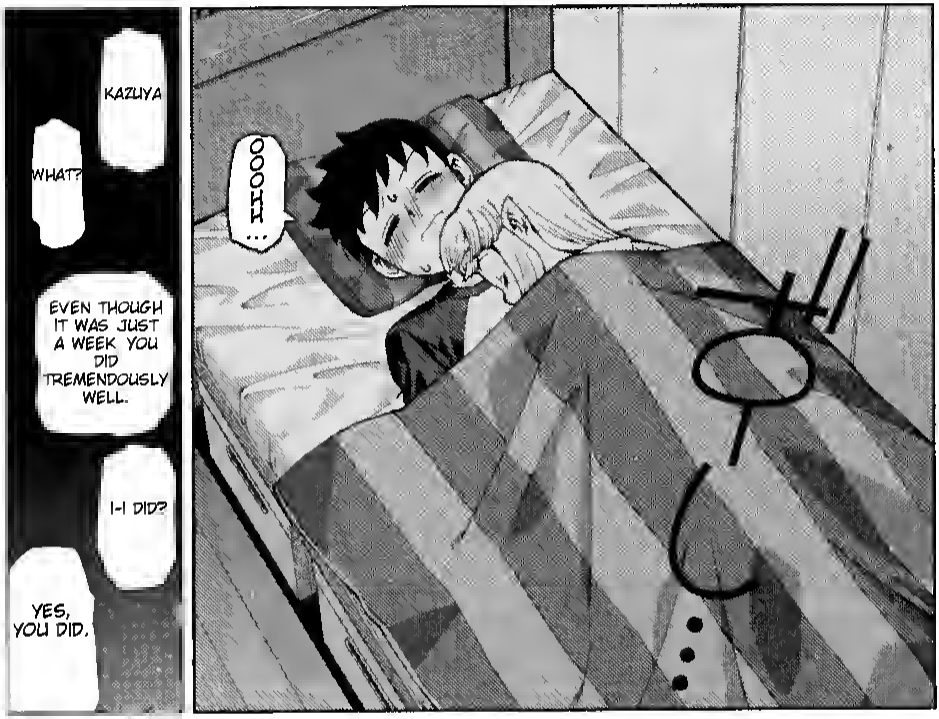
Y,YES...

BUT DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT USING THE ORIGINAL —I MEAN, ME.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
SO THINK HARD ABOUT HOW YOU'LL USE THE ORIGINAL AND THE SUBSTITUTES.
ぬしゃ
ぬしゃ

DAZE
……
WHY ARE YOU LIKE THAT?
AH…
WHAT IS IT, DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND SOMETHING?
EH?
I DON'T WANT KIRIHA TO BE HURT…
WELL, AS IF IT WILL DO ANY GOOD NOW…
IT'S IMPORTANT TO WIN
BUT KIRIHA IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME.
I WILL WIN THIS DUEL AND ALSO PROTECT KIRIHA!
I WILL MAN UP!

WH-
WH-
カアアアア
W-WOAH!
ガバッ
SUPPOSED TO BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND!!
ISN'T IT
WOOOAAA OKOKOKOK! PLEASE LET GO!!
ギュウウ
STOP THINKING ABOUT USELESS THINGS LIKE THAT AND THINK ABOUT HOW TO WIN!
AH AH AH ...

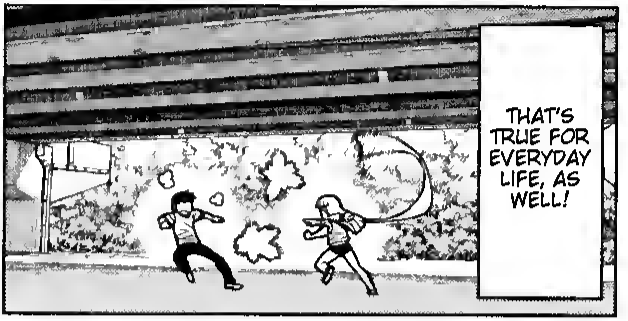




SINCE YOU DID WELL
YOU SHOULD HAVE A VERY DEEEEEEP SLEEP.
NO ONE WILL FIND OUT IF I TOUCH YOU A BIT, RIGHT?
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
HAHA HAHA~

TOMORROW IS THE DUEL!

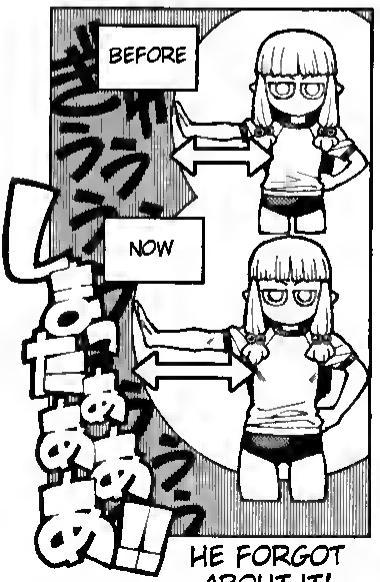
Reach

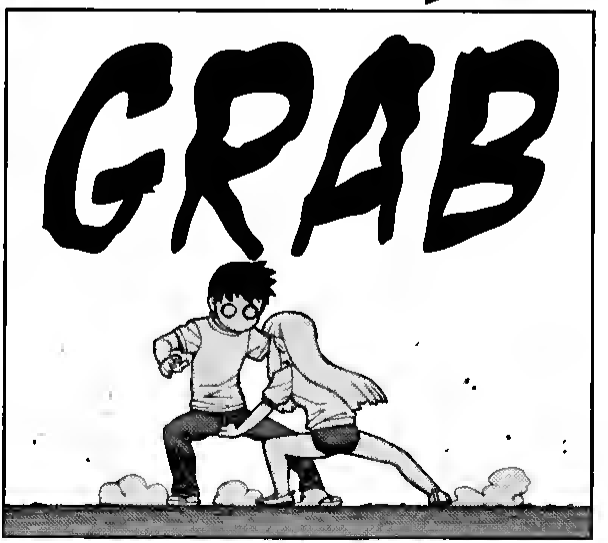

THAT'S TRUE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE, AS WELL!

IN FIGHTS, "REACH" IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING!

TOO EASY! I'VE ALREADY CALCULATED KIRIHA'S REACH!

I SHALL PUNISH YOU!
KAZUYA! HAVE YOU GOTTEN TIRED ALREADY!
Tch!

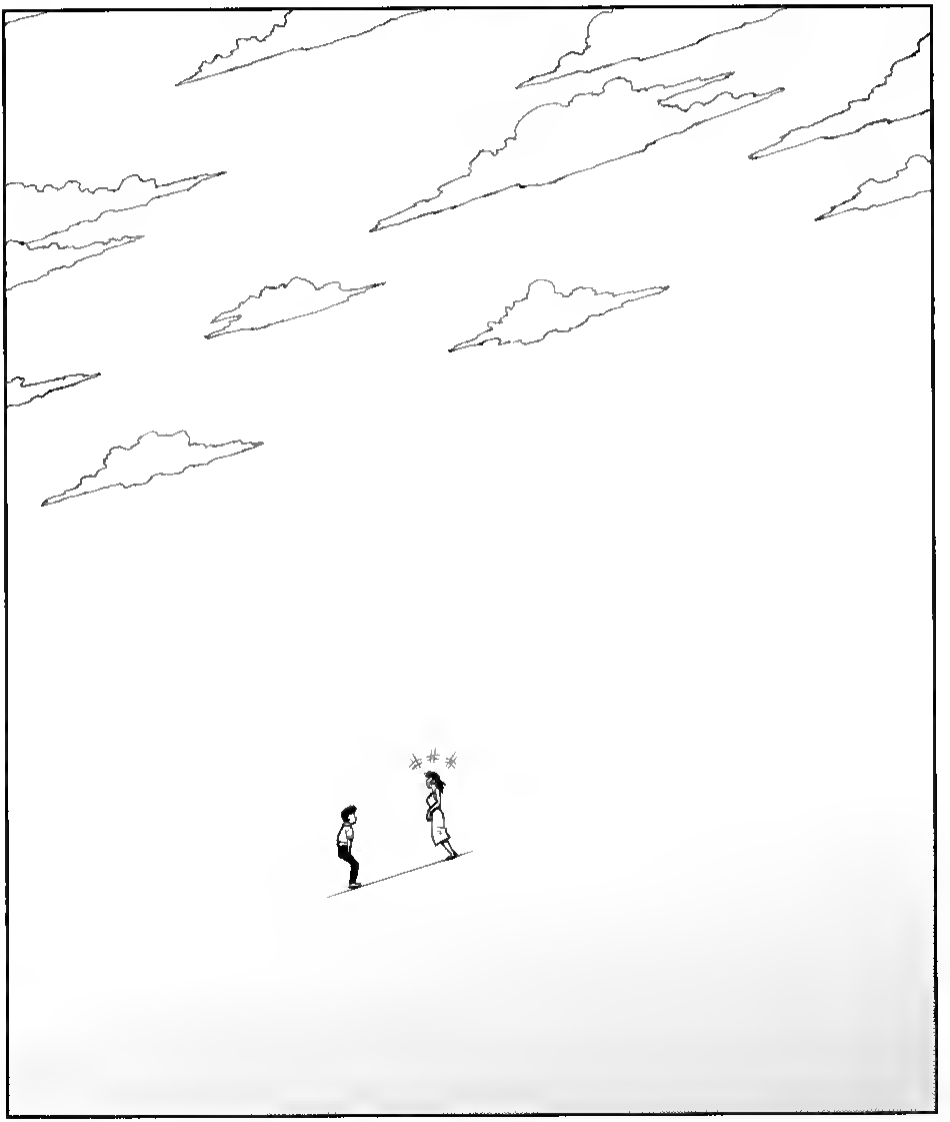

BEFORE
NOW
HE FORGOT ABOUT IT!


GRAB

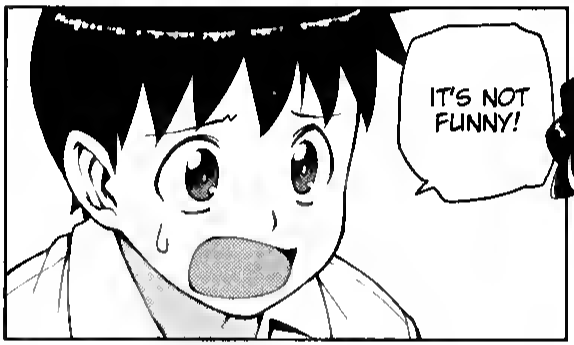
One More Time

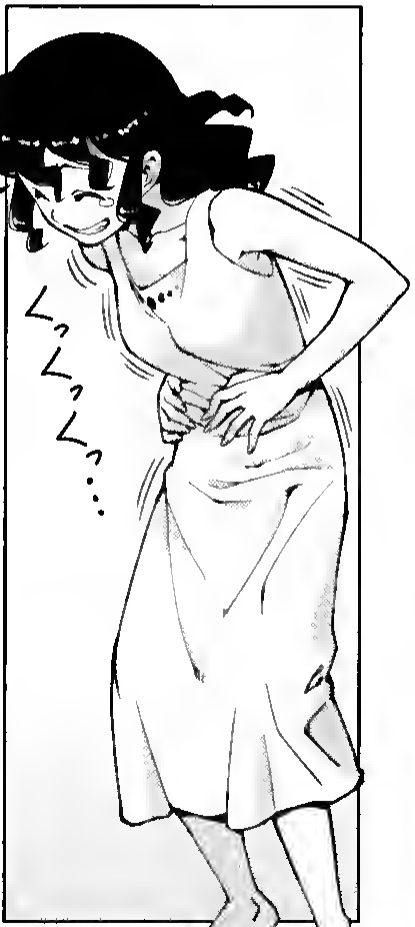
H-HEY... KAZUYA.
THAT... COULD YOU TELL ME THAT ONE MORE TIME?
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT! DID YOU NOT JUST SAY THAT!
THAT... THING YOU SAID WHILE YOU DRIED MY HAIR!
I WILL MAN UP?
NO! YOU HAVE AN AWFUL MEMORY!
IF YOU WANT YOUR NETHER REGIONS UNHARMED, SAY IT NOW!
HEEEEE!
LET ME SEE...
I WILL PROTECT YOU, KIRIHA?
THAT'S RIGHT!
MY NETHER REGIONS WERE HARMED REGARDLESS OF THE PATH I CHOSE.

Chapter 25: Into A Dream



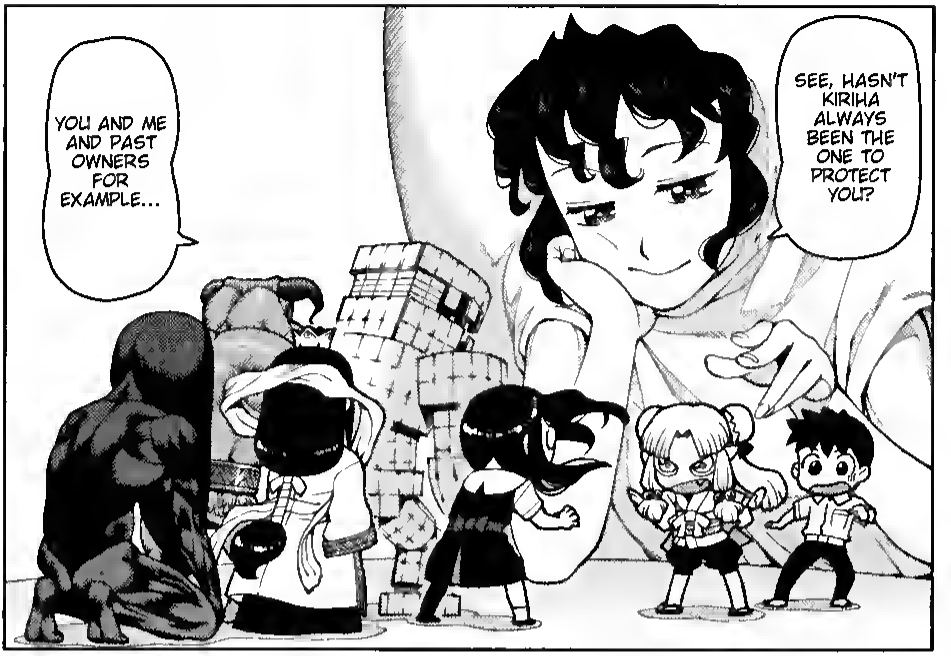
PFFAAAA HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA
AAAAA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAAAAA


IT'S NOT FUNNY!



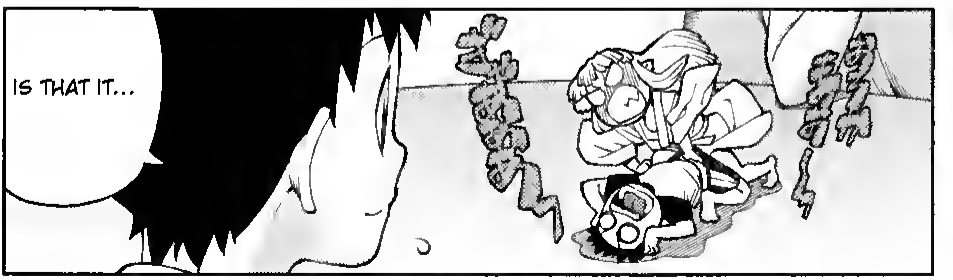
AAAH, SORRY SORRY~ OK... WHAT WAS IT?
KIRIHA CAN'T BE FORGIVEN ANYWAY
BUT TODAY IT'S EVEN MORE UNFOR-GIVABLE!

EVEN THOUGH I SAID I WOULD MAN UP..
NO NO NO~, NOT THAT~
EH!?
AYA~, YOU REALLY ARE DENSE.
ギュウ
SHE SUDDENLY GOT MAD AT ME... I DON'T KNOW WHY.
ビシッ
YES, THAT'S IT!!
UM
LET ME THINK...
THE THING AFTER THAT.
I WILL WIN THAT FIGHT AND AND I WILL PROTECT KIRIHA, TOO!
IS IT THIS?
AH... THANK YOU.
COME SIT DOWN.
LET'S SEE...

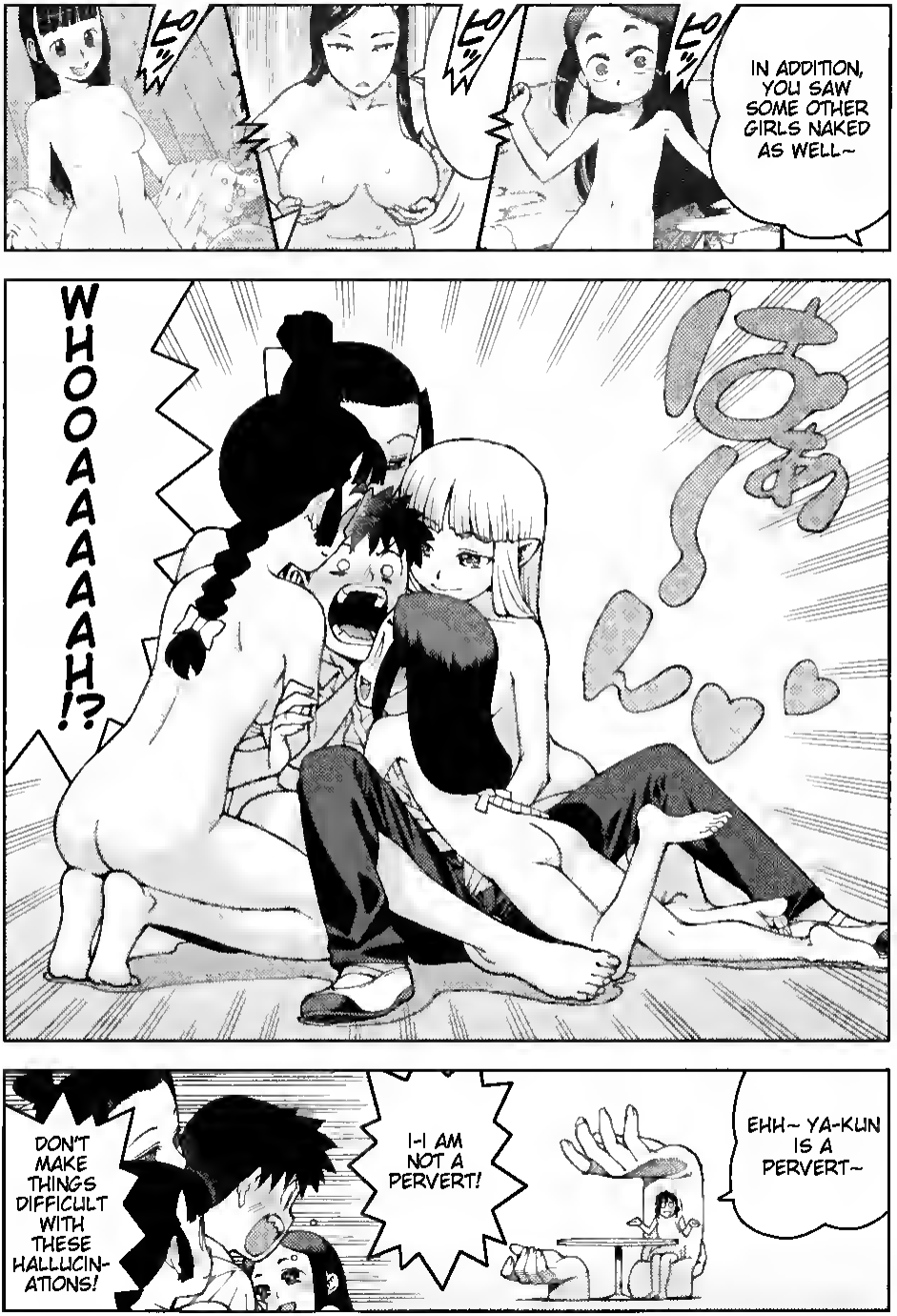

SEE, HASN'T KIRIHA ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE TO PROTECT YOU?
YOU AND ME AND PAST OWNERS FOR EXAMPLE...

SHE WAS EVEN MORE SURPRISED
SO
I WILL PROTECT YOU!!
THEN SUDDENLY YOU SAID...
NO, MAYBE SHE WENT -:DOKIDOKI:-

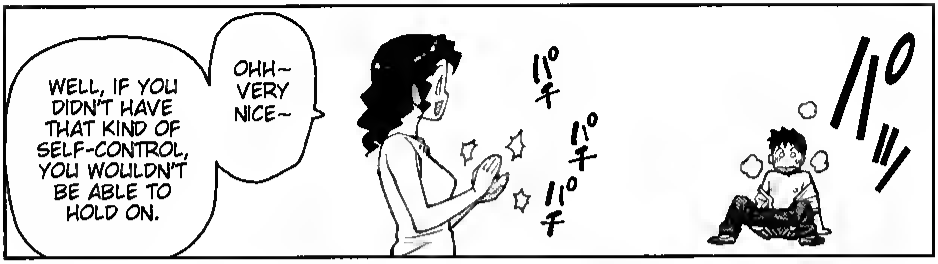
YOU, ESPECIALLY, HAVE BEEN PROTECTED BY HER A LOT MORE.

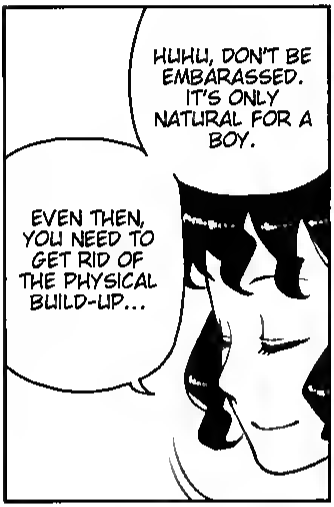

IS THAT IT...

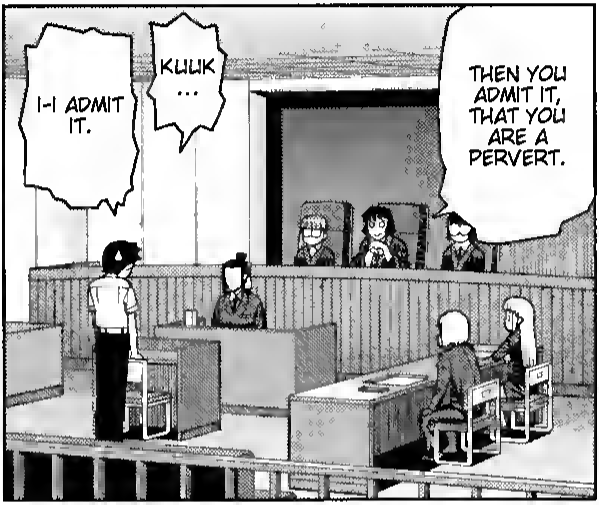
AND WITH THAT KIRIHA
Y-YEAH... SHE IS...
AH...
SHE'S A REAL CUTE KID, THAT KIRIHA.
YOU'RE DOING THINGS LIKE THIS.
AAAH STOP!
AND THIS!


IN ADDITION, YOU SAW SOME OTHER GIRLS NAKED AS WELL~
WHOOAAAAAH!?
EHH~ YA-KUN IS A PERVERT~
I-I AM NOT A PERVERT!
DON'T MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT WITH THESE HALLUCIN-ATIONS!

I DIDN'T MAKE THESE.
!
THESE ARE MADE BY YOU, KAZUYA.
THESE HALLUCINATIONS ARE PROOF OF THAT.
ARA~ YOU SHOULDN'T TELL LIES LIKE THAT.
YOU AREN'T A PERVERT?
THAT'S IT!
カッ
I NEED TO CHANGE MY FOCUS...!
THEN I CAN PROBABLY GET RID OF THEM MYSELF!
I MADE THESE!?
BLEGH !?
おっちい


WELL, IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF SELF-CONTROL, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HOLD ON.
OHH~ VERY NICE~
ピチ
ピチ
ピチ
ハ°ハ°ハ°


HUHU, DON'T BE EMBARASSED. IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A BOY.
EVEN THEN, YOU NEED TO GET RID OF THE PHYSICAL BUILD-UP...

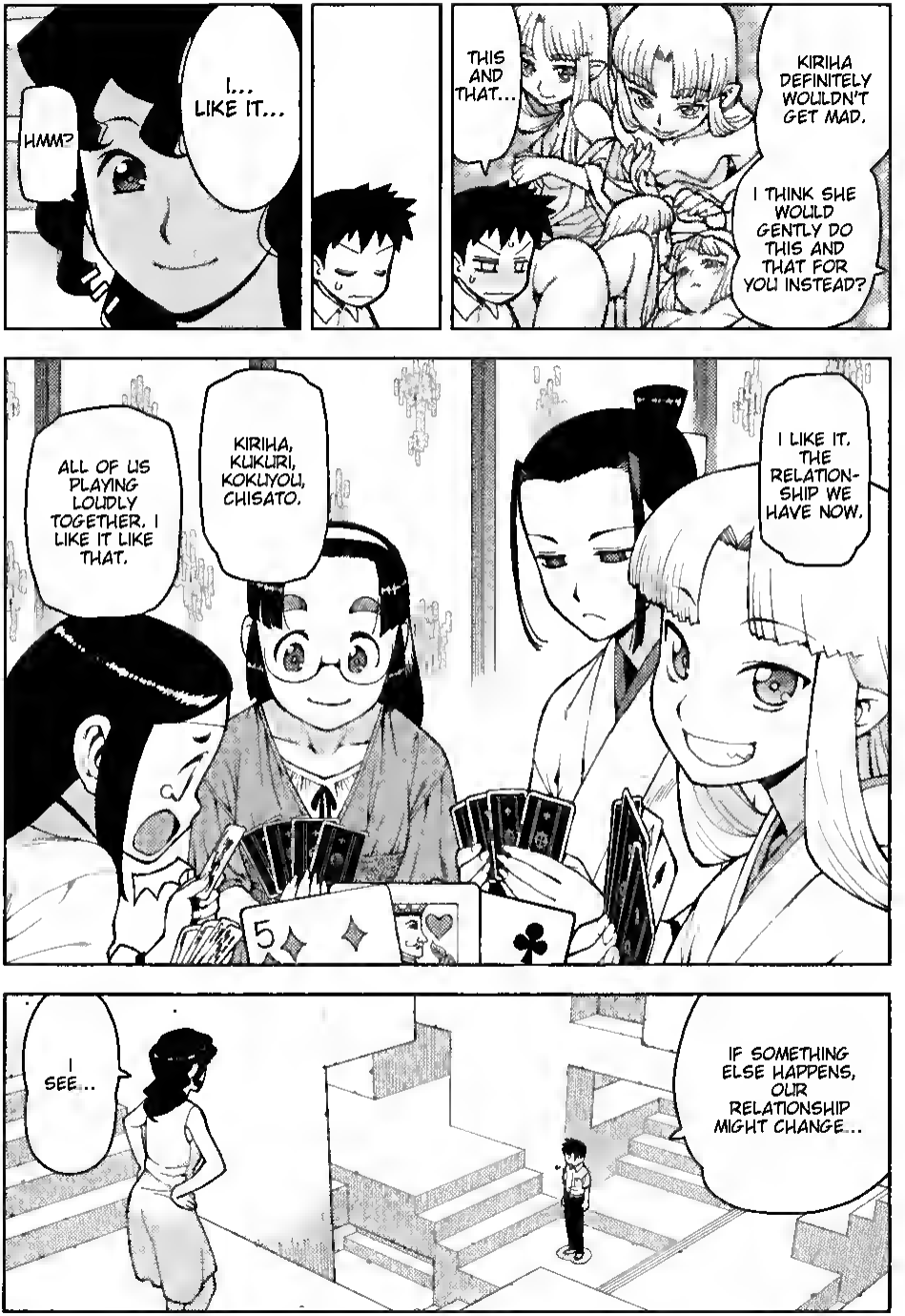

I-I ADMIT IT.
KUUK ...
THEN YOU ADMIT IT, THAT YOU ARE A PERVERT.

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?" EHHH~ IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY HERE.
THIS IS YA-KUN'S DREAM

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
SO YOU REALLY NEED TO DO IT IN THE BATHROOM~
SINCE KIRIHA IS IN THE ROOM~
FAP FAP

ACK!
IT'S LIKE THAT NORMALLY, BUT NOW WITH KIRIHA...
THEN IT REALLY IS DANGEROUS~ SUPPRESSING THE SLEEPING BEAST INSIDE YOU...
SAYING NOBODY WOULD FIND OUT IF SHE TOUCHED ME A BIT!
HUGGING ME WHILE BUTT-NAKED NOT TOO LONG AGO!
LET'S SLEEP, KAZUYA
CRAWLING INTO MY BLANKET WEARING JUST PAJAMAS!
AND SHE WILL OFTEN BATHE TOGETHER WITH ME TOO...
SHE SMELLS NICE WHEN SHE COMES CLOSE TO ME
NORMALLY VIOLENT, BUT HER SLEEPING FACE IS CUTE...
AAAAA!!
AWW, IT MELTED!
AND THAT PLACE IS CLEARLY VISIBLE!
SHE SPREADS HER LEGS LIKE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT...

MACHO, MACHO MAAAAAAN
...
AGH!
SEE~ IT CAME OUT AGAIN~
YOU CAN'T JUST COVER IT UP LIKE THAT...
!


I... LIKE IT...
HMM?
KIRIHA DEFINITELY WOULDN'T GET MAD.
I THINK SHE WOULD GENTLY DO THIS AND THAT FOR YOU INSTEAD?
THIS AND THAT...
I LIKE IT. THE RELATION-SHIP WE HAVE NOW.
KIRIHA, KUKURI, KOKUYOU, CHISATO.
ALL OF US PLAYING LOUDLY TOGETHER. I LIKE IT LIKE THAT.
IF SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS, OUR RELATIONSHIP MIGHT CHANGE...
I SEE..

THEN I NEED TO GET GOING.
ARA~ THE SUN IS RISING.
ナアアア
BYE, MISS EXORCIST!
BYE~
THE PREVIOUS EXORCIST... WAS MY MOM...
THE PREVIOUS EXORCIST WAS MY MOM...
PREVIOUS EXORCIST? HUH?
THEN .. THAT PERSON... HMM ..
THAT PERSON'S NAME... UHH...
AHH. I CAN'T.
SOMETHING'S MADE ME UNABLE TO SAY IT.
BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT SOON, SO DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF

TN: REALLY NOT SURE WHAT HE'S SAYING HERE

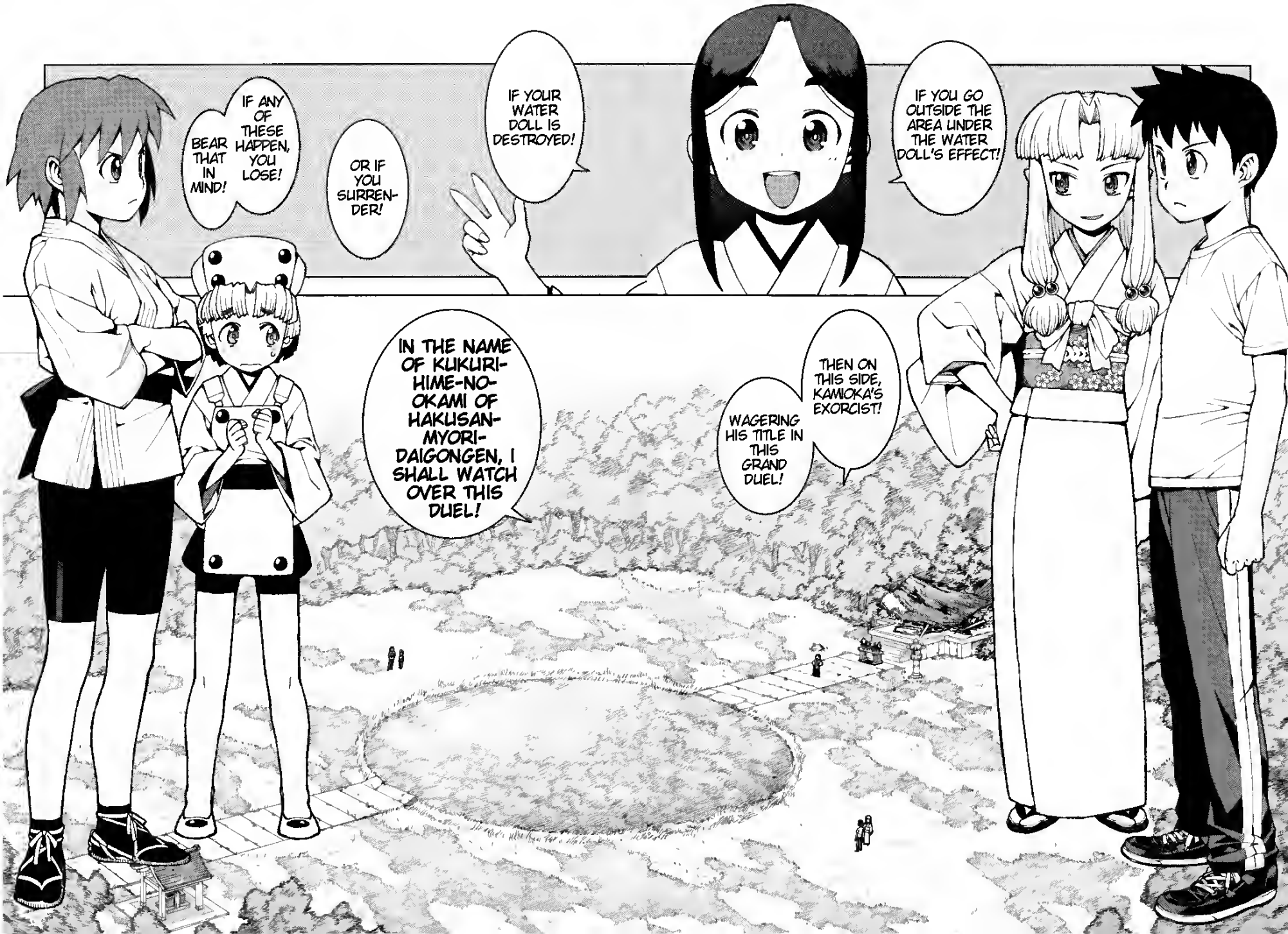
ガバッ
チュン チュン
チチチ…
MACHO MACHO MAAAAAN …

Ideality

ボウン!!
COME OUT! GENTLE KIRIHA!
SO IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE IDEAL KIRIHA!
THIS IS A DREAM!
そーか
あ～ん
OK, SAY AHHH~, KAZUYA.
LET ME CLEAN YOUR EARS FOR YOU, KAZUYA.
AREN'T YOUR SHOULDERS TIRED, KAZUYA?
あ～きもちい～
バキッ
YOU THOUGHT I WOULD SAY THAT?
YOU CAN'T REALLY FOOL THE ORIGINAL.
YOU STUPID FOOL!
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
ギャあああああ
カ馬カあ者!!

Free From Meaning

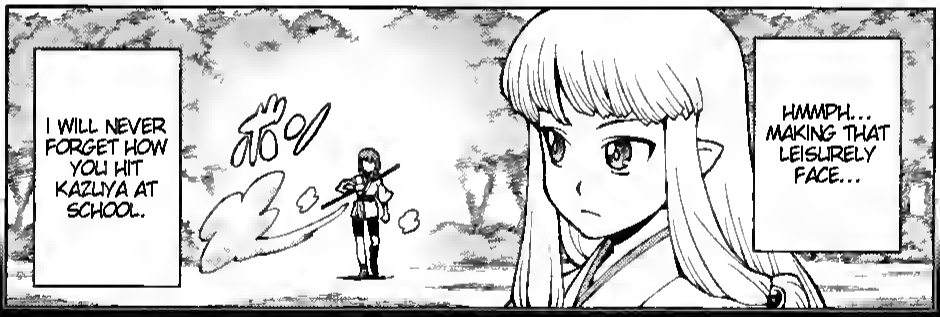
Chapter 26: Sunao vs. Kazuya
ゴクッ
SWIPE
OK, CONTRACT COMPLETE!
FROM NOW ON, ALL DAMAGE WILL BE
INFLICTED ON THESE WATER DOLLS INSTEAD OF YOU.
BUT IT ONLY WORKS INSIDE THE SHRINE'S PERIMETER!


IF ANY OF THESE HAPPEN, YOU LOSE!
BEAR THAT IN MIND!
OR IF YOU SURREN-DER!
IF YOUR WATER DOLL IS DESTROYED!
IF YOU GO OUTSIDE THE AREA UNDER THE WATER DOLL'S EFFECT!
IN THE NAME OF KUKURI-HIME-NO-OKAMI OF HAKUSAN-MYORI-DAIGONGEN, I SHALL WATCH OVER THIS DUEL!
WAGERING HIS TITLE IN THIS GRAND DUEL!
THEN ON THIS SIDE, KAMIOKA'S EXORCIST!

YEAH... UM...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HAPPENED BY CHANCE?"
.....
FORCED UPON YOU!?
SO IT WAS KIND OF FORCED UPON ME...
KUKURI SUDDENLY APPOINTED ME...
I TRAINED MYSELF FROM A YOUNG AGE, DAY AFTER DAY!
TO TOPPLE MY BROTHER'S NEMESIS AND KANAKA!
TO BECOME AN EXORCIST LIKE MY BROTHER!
I WILL DEFINITELY SHOW YOU HOW INEXPERIENCED YOU ARE!
THIS BASTARD IS MY ENEMY FOR SURE!
THEN THIS BASTARD FOLLOWED IN KANAKA'S FOOTSTEPS AND BECAME AN EXORCIST WITHOUT ANY EFFORT, BY MERE CHANCE!

WE CAN'T LOSE!
GET READY.
IF WE SLIP UP AND LOSE, IT WILL BE MY FAULT AGAIN...
YES!!

THE REASON SUOU-SAMA LOST HIS LIFE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MY OWN WEAKNESS...
IN THIS FIGHT... KAZUYA'S STRENGTH ISN'T EVEN CLOSE TO SUNAO'S!


I WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU HIT KAZUYA AT SCHOOL.
HMMPH... MAKING THAT LEISURELY FACE...

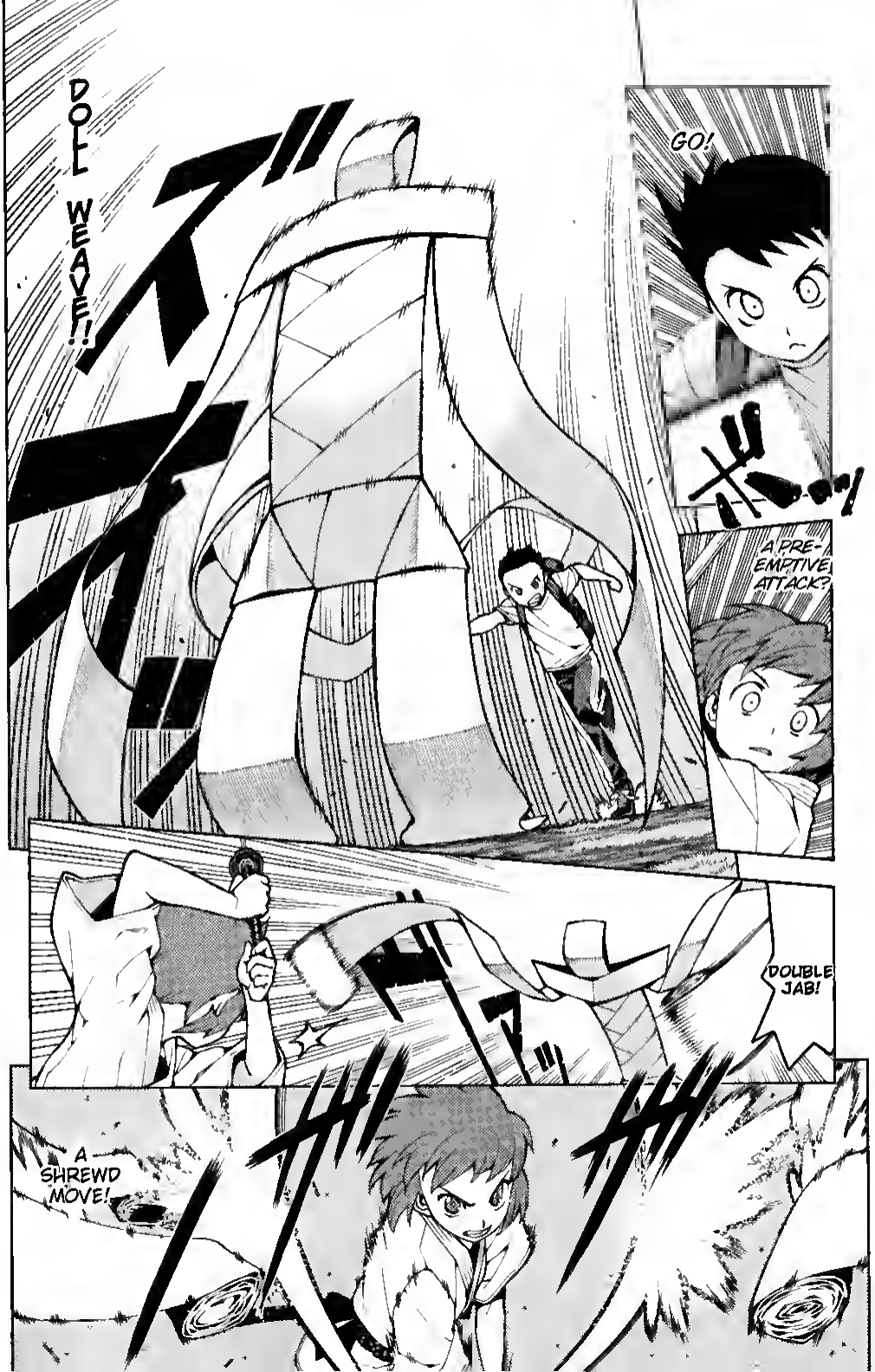
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BULLY KAZUYA IS ME!
I SHALL DEFINITELY RETURN THE FAVOR!

I BECAME AN EXORCIST BY CHANCE.
SINCE I HAD NEITHER AWARENESS NOR RESOLVE, I BECAME AN EXORCIST BY MERE CHANCE.
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW!
IF MY MERE EXISTENCE CREATES PROBLEMS FOR OTHERS
I'LL JUST SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS WITH MY WN HANDS!
SO I NEED TO KEEP ON BEING AN EXORCIST!
IN ADDI-TION...
WHAT?
YOU WANT ME TO BE MORE GENTLE?
TO KOTETSU?
TO A TOOL? WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN?
A TSUMO-GAMI IS NOT JUST A TOOL!
WHAT IS IT, THEN?

YOUR PARTNER!
YOU SOUND LIKE AN IDIOT!
バタン
YOUR SOFTNESS WILL GET YOU KILLED SOME DAY!
MY TSUMO-GAMI IS...
KIRIHA IS MY PRECIOUS PARTNER!
AGAINST SUNAO, WHO CALLS TSUMOGAMI TOOLS...
I CAN NEVER LOSE!

YOU GUYS ARE BOTH READY, RIGHT?
OK...
MY SWORD'S REACH IS 1.8 METERS.
COMING WITHIN THAT REACH WOULD BE FATAL FOR HIM...
AS SOON AS THE DUEL STARTS, HE'LL TRY TO KEEP HIS DISTANCE AND ATTACK WHEN HE CAN.
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT!
I'LL CLOSE THE DISTANCE AT ONCE, AND FINISH HIM OFF IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
LET'S HAVE A FAIR FIGHT. READY...

START!
!?
ビッ


DOL WEAVE!!
GO!
A PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK?
DOUBLE JAB!
A SHREWD MOVE!

I'LL PIERCE YOU ALONG WITH THAT DOLL!
ゴゥン!
BELOW!
HE'S NOT HERE!?

OBI BIND!
IS HE TRYING TO DISARM ME!?
HYA4!
WOAA!?

THIS AGAIN...
DOLL WEAVE!
I'LL SHRED IT UP!
IT'S COMING, KAZUYA! FOLLOW THE PLAN!
OK!

AIR SLASH!
BLOCK IT!
NICE!

SUNAO!
KUUUK!
IT HIT!
THAT OPENED HER UP! DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
HE USED A DOLL MADE OF TWO SUBSTITUTES AS BAIT
AND EXPLOITED THE OPENING IMMEDIATELY AFTER I USED AIR SLASH...!?
TCH!

OHO, THEY'RE DOING WELL.
ポム
!
YOU CAME, HONOKA. I DON'T HAVE ANY WATER DOLLS LEFT.
THEN I WILL BE YOUR GUEST WITH THIS SUBSTITUTE.
PAY ME NO HEED.
HMMM ...
FROM SUNAO, I HEARD THAT HE WAS A SLOPPY, UNPROMISING, AND TALENTLESS GUY.
BUT HE'S PRETTY DAMN GOOD CONSIDERING HIS AGE.
AND HE ALSO HAS SOMETHING SUNAO DOESN'T.
THEY'RE A GOOD MATCH.
YES, AS WE CAN SEE.

KUUK ...
HE EXPLOITED THE OPENING AFTER AIR SLASH AGAIN!
HE'S GOOD AT BLOCKING MY BLOWS WITH THE DOLL, THEN KEEPING THE RIGHT DISTANCE FOR ATTACKING AFTER.
HE'S ANALYZING THE POWER AND RANGE OF AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH REALLY WELL...
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY IF THAT'S ALL HE'S GOT!

WE'VE BEEN OVERUSING THE OBI JAB, IT'S NOT WORKING ANY MORE.
YEAH, IT WAS A BIT SIMPLISTIC.
THEN I'LL TRY A DIFFERENT APPROACH!
OBI BUNDLE!
WHAT'S THAT!?
KANAKA-SAMA DIDN'T HAVE A TECHNIQUE LIKE THAT?
CRAP... I CAN'T READ THAT SKILL.
IS IT OFFENSIVE?
OR DEFENSIVE?
COULD IT JUST BE A RUSE?
SUNAO-SAMA! KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
SHUT UP! IF I FOLLOW THAT BASTARD'S PLAN LIKE THAT, I'VE ALREADY LOST!
I'LL FACE ALL YOUR ATTACKS HEAD-ON!

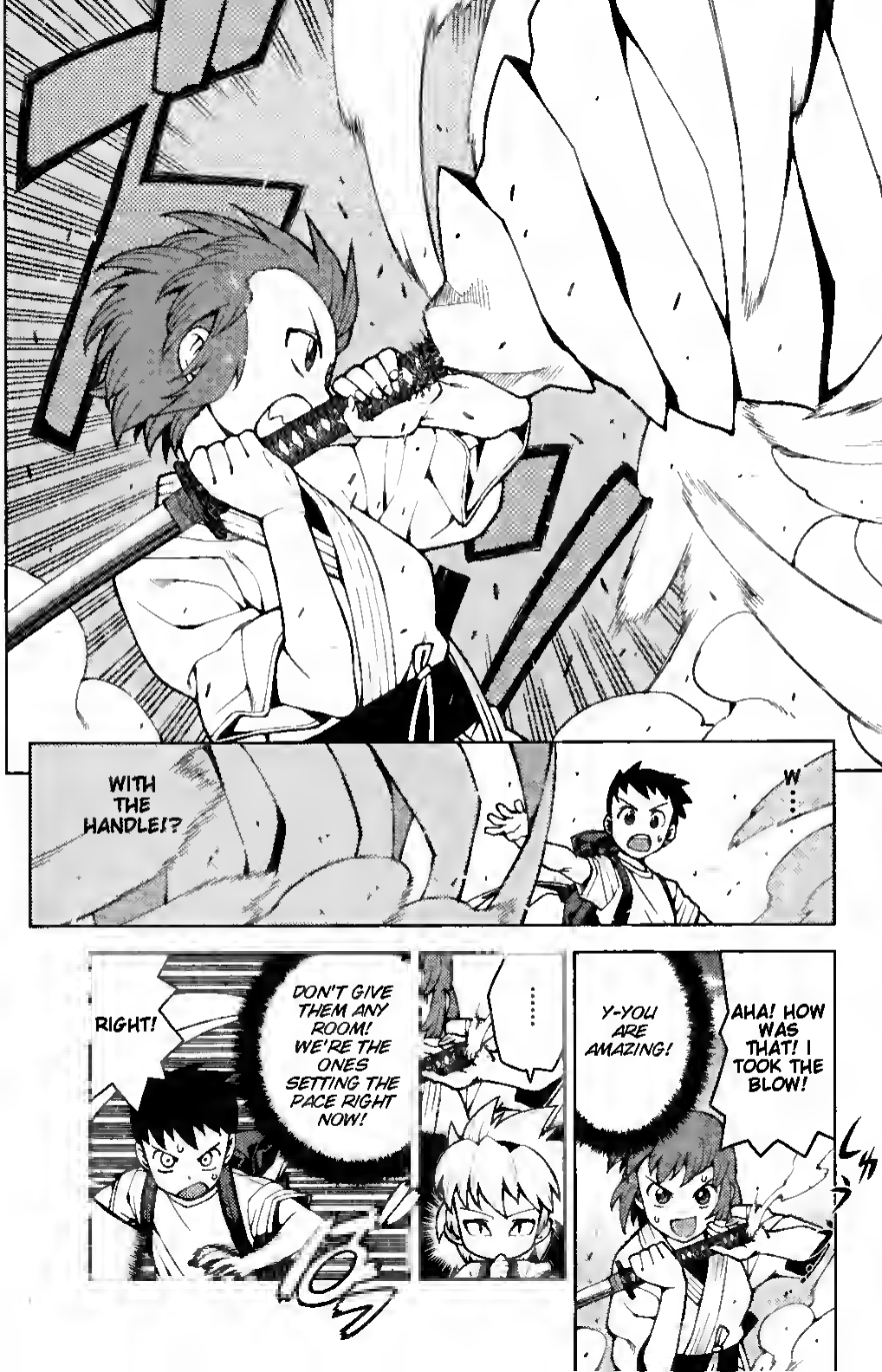
IT BECAME A HAMMER WEAVE INSTANT-LY!?
ドゴ
OHH~ THAT'S UNEXPECTED IT'S PRETTY ONE-SIDED.
HMM... IT SHOULDN'T BE THIS ONE-SIDED...
SUNAO... THAT GIRL IS PROBABLY ...

I'LL TAKE EVERYTHING HE THROWS AT ME, AND PROVE MY SUPERIORITY!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DODGE DECEPTIVE MOVES LIKE THAT!
JUST KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, THEN LET'S PLAN...
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
ANYWW...
SUNAO SEEMS TO WANT TO TAKE OUR ATTACKS DIRECTLY.
THEN LET'S GRANT HER REQUEST!
...THINKING LIKE THAT IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION
THEN FOLLOW IT UP WITH...
OBI-BUNDLE!!

SPIRAL WEAVE!!

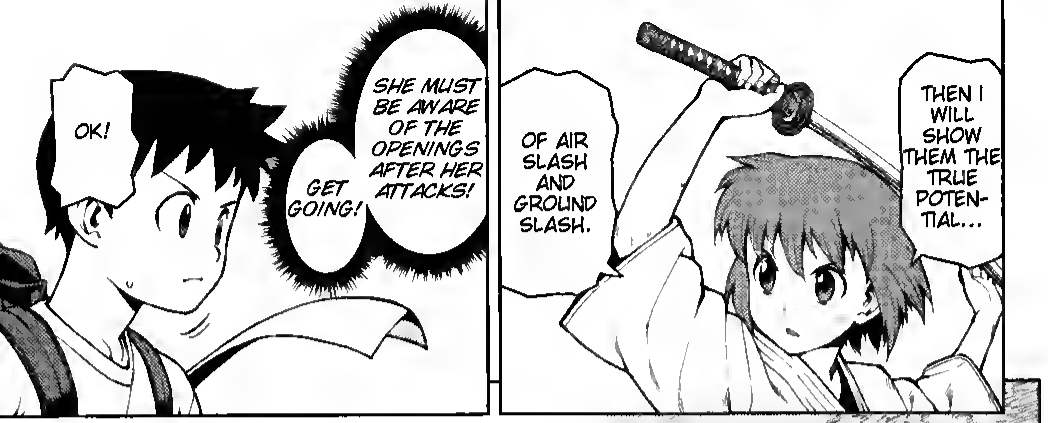
KUU...

IS IT OVER!?
WHAT ON EARTH...


WITH THE HANDLE!?
W……
AHA! HOW WAS THAT! I TOOK THE BLOW!
Y-YOU ARE AMAZING!
……
DON'T GIVE THEM ANY ROOM! WE'RE THE ONES SETTING THE PACE RIGHT NOW!
RIGHT!

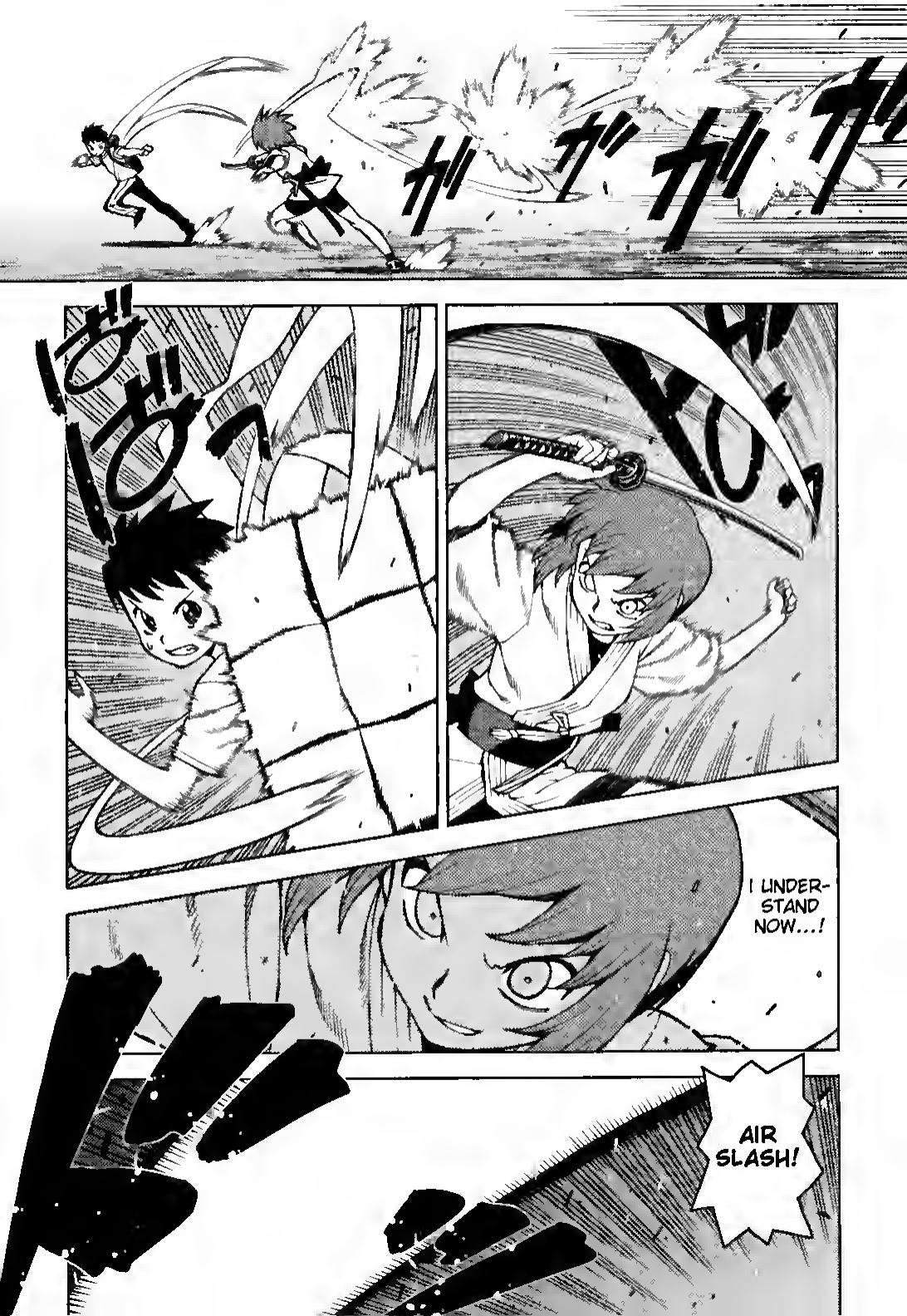
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KOTETSU?
OF COURSE, ALL HE HAS ARE STOPGAP SOLUTIONS. IT'S OBVIOUS HE CAN'T BEAT ME WITH JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS, OR EVEN WEEKS WORTH OF PREPARATION.
YES, IT'S INCREDIBLE.
TSK... SHE'S LEARNING TO HANDLE EVERY SKILL WE CAN USE AFTER THE OBI BUNDLE...
HOWEVER, SWORDS WERE CREATED WITH OFFENSE IN MIND. WE'LL GET RESULTS IF WE KEEP ATTACKING.

EVERYTHING IS OK!
YES! OF COURSE IT IS!
AH
KOTE-TSU?
.....
THEN I WILL SHOW THEM THE TRUE POTENTIAL
OF AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH.
H!!


OK!
GET GOING!
SHE MUST BE AWARE OF THE OPENINGS AFTER HER ATTACKS!
OF AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH.
THEN I WILL SHOW THEM THE TRUE POTENTIAL...

Chapter 27: Sunao vs. Kazuya 2

OBI BUN-DLE!
THEN FOLL-OW UP WITH...
DOU-BLE JAB!
KUU ...
SO OBI BUNDLE SKILLS WON'T WORK ANY MORE...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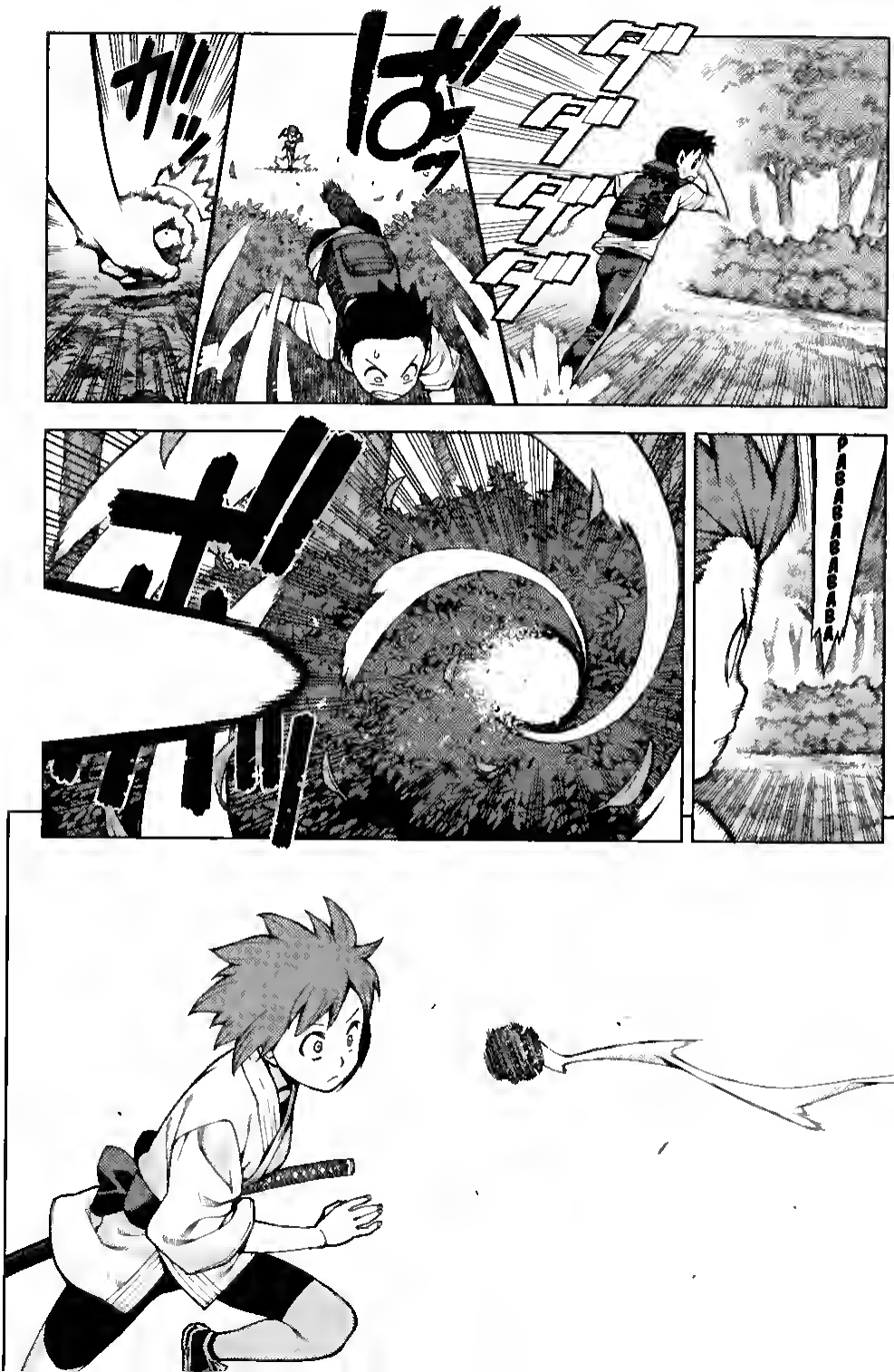
ば ば
I UNDER-STAND NOW...!
AIR SLASH!

HOW FOOLISH!
LOOK FOR THE OPENING!
OK!
!!?
DOUBLE CLAW!!

IT'S A DOUBLE ATTACK!?
WHA...
UGH
UGH...
YES!
OH NO, KAZU-YAAAA!

UGH...!
GET OUT OF HER REACH!
Y-YES!
7.2 m !!
!?
GROUND SLASH!
IT, IT'S JUMPING OUT OF ITS RANGE ...!?

KAZU-YAN!!
TSK!
HA
HA
I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT!
OK!
LET'S CRAFT SOME NEW COUNTER-MEASURES! KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
!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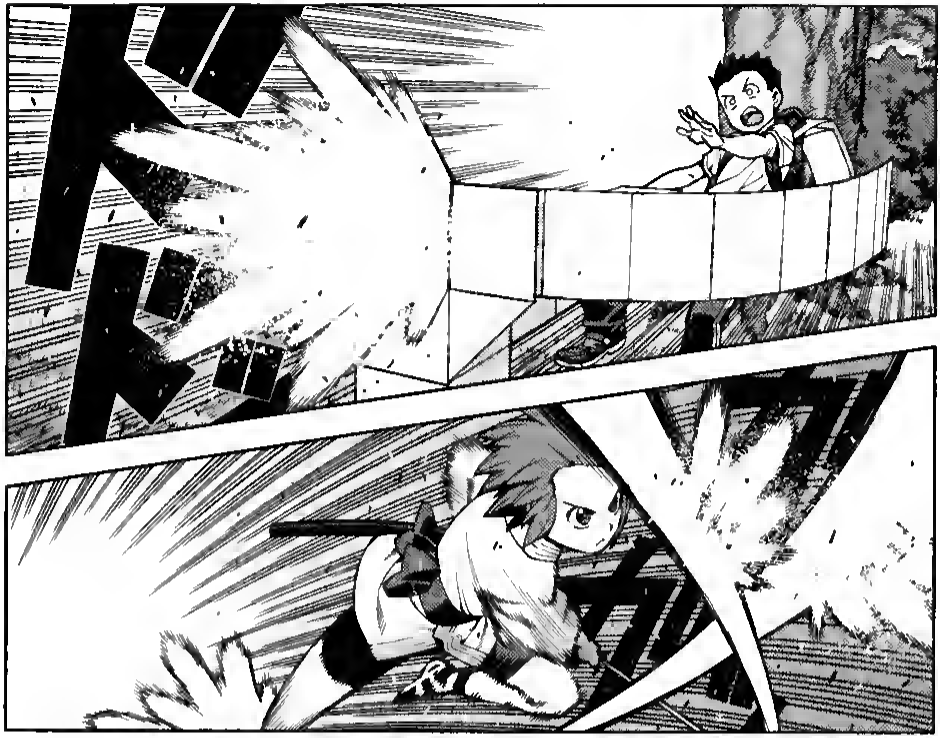
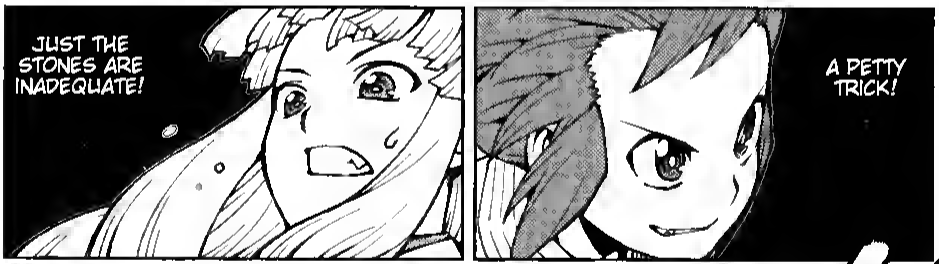
STONES...?
BOW WEAVE!!

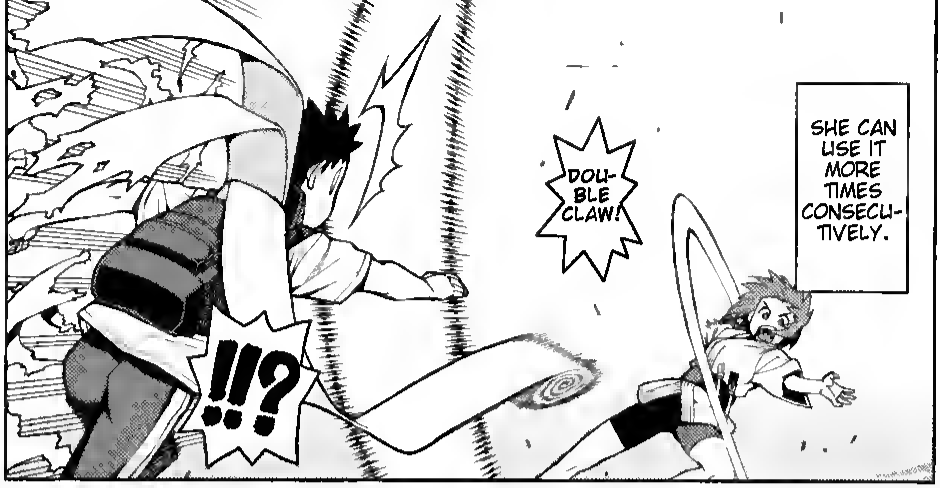


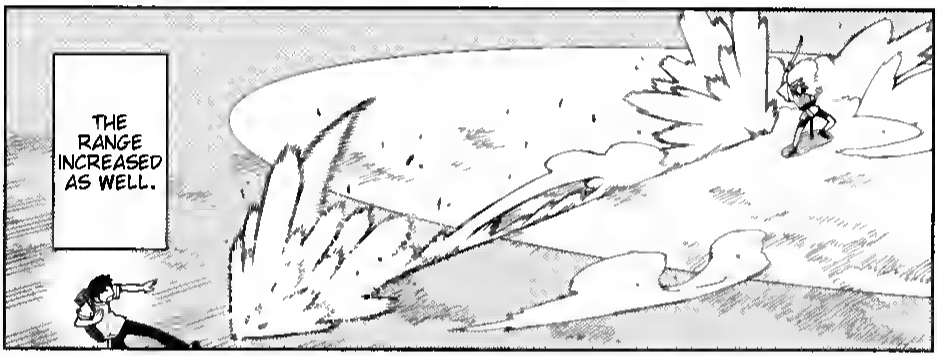

JUST THE STONES ARE INADEQUATE!
A PETTY TRICK!

WOAA!
STUPID FOOL! RUN, QUICKLY!

WOAH!
ボヨヨヨヨ
ヒュ
ガッ
UGH...
ガ ガ ガ ガ

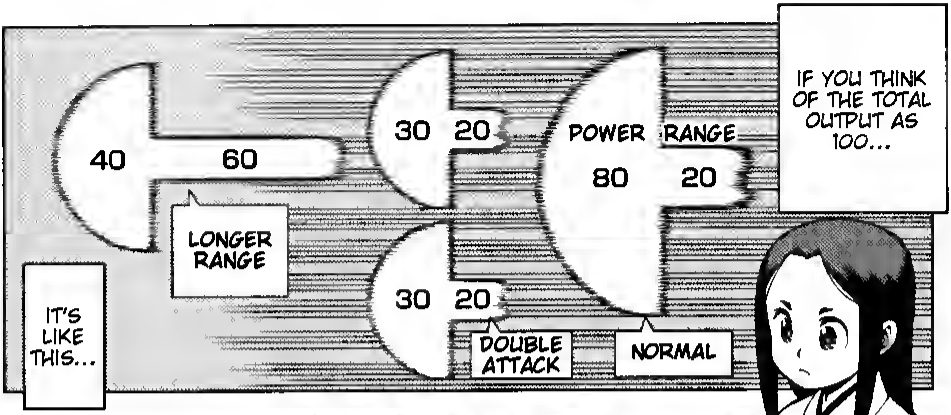
にゃ
にゃ
にゃ
WHAT IS THIS~? HAVE THE TABLED TURN~ED?
HMPH!
T-THE REAL FIGHT STARTS NOW!
HMMM~
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
SUNAO PROBABLY FIGURED THAT OUT.
YEAH, SO IT ISN'T SUITABLE FOR EXPLOITING OPENINGS.
THAT TECHNIQUE HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING IMPOSSIBLE TO READ
BUT THE DISADVANTAGE OF TAKING A LONG TIME TO FORM THE BUNDLE.
GRL BUNDLE!
HOWEVER, THAT IS JUST A TRIVIAL PROBLEM...
THE IMPOR-TANT THINGS ARE...
AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH.

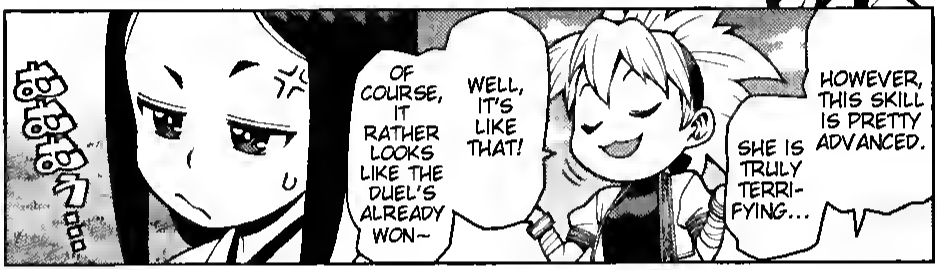

!!?
DOU-
BLE
CLAW!
SHE CAN
USE IT
MORE
TIMES
CONSECU-
TIVELY.

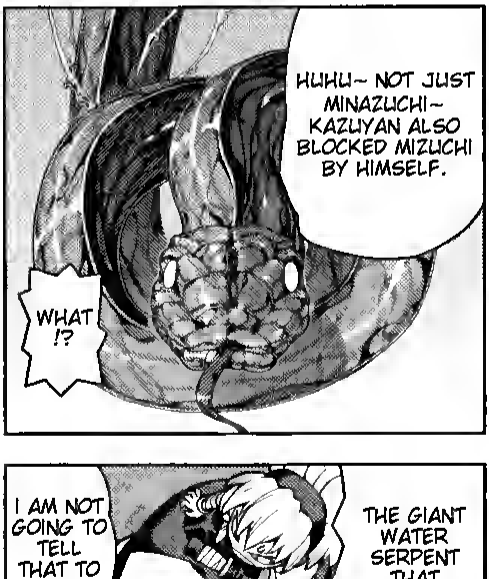

THE
RANGE
INCREASED
AS WELL.

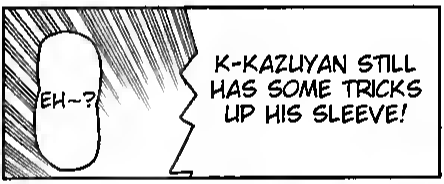
.....
OKAY, SO DO
YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHY... THIS
IS POSSIBLE?
IT WAS
OUTSIDE OF
YOUR
CALCULATIONS,
OF COURSE?

IT'S BECAUSE
SHE
CONTROLLED
THE SPIRITUAL
POWER!

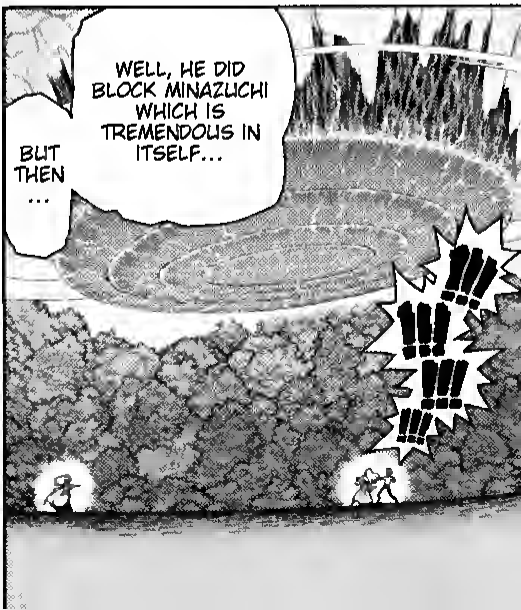

IF YOU THINK OF THE TOTAL OUTPUT AS 100...
POWER
RANGE
80
20
40
60
30
20
LONGER RANGE
IT'S LIKE THIS...
30
20
DOUBLE ATTACK
NORMAL


ぬぬぬぬ
OF COURSE, IT RATHER LOOKS LIKE THE DUEL'S ALREADY WON~
WELL, IT'S LIKE THAT!
HOWEVER, THIS SKILL IS PRETTY ADVANCED.
SHE IS TRULY TERRI-FYING...


HUHU~ NOT JUST MINAZUCHI~ KAZUYAN ALSO BLOCKED MIZUCHI BY HIMSELF.
WHAT!?


K-KAZUYAN STILL HAS SOME TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE!
EH~?

I AM NOT GOING TO TELL THAT TO AN OPPO-NENT~
THE GIANT WATER SERPENT THAT POUNCES MADLY? HOW!?


WELL, HE DID BLOCK MINAZUCHI WHICH IS TREMENDOUS IN ITSELF...
BUT THEN ...
!!!
!!!
!!!

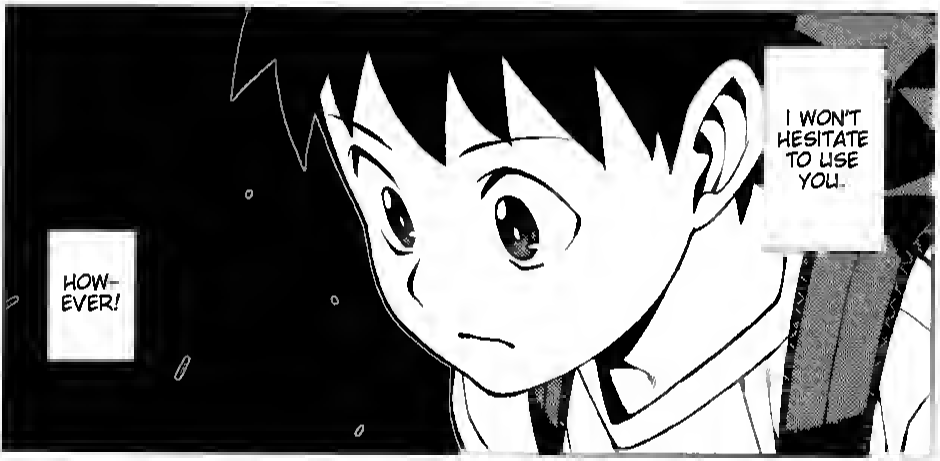
HUHU HU~
WHAT! TELL ME!
AN OPEN-ING!
AIR SLASH!
!!!
DOUBLE CLAW!!
UGH!
KAZUYA, WAIT! THERE WILL BE A FOLLOW-UP ATTACK!
WE CAN'T JUST LOOK FOR OPENINGS ANY MORE! WHAT CAN WE DO!?
CRAP! SUNAO'S TECHNIQUES ARE BECOMING MORE VERSATILE!
I-I AM ALRIGHT!
THE ORIGINAL! KIRIHA-SAN!

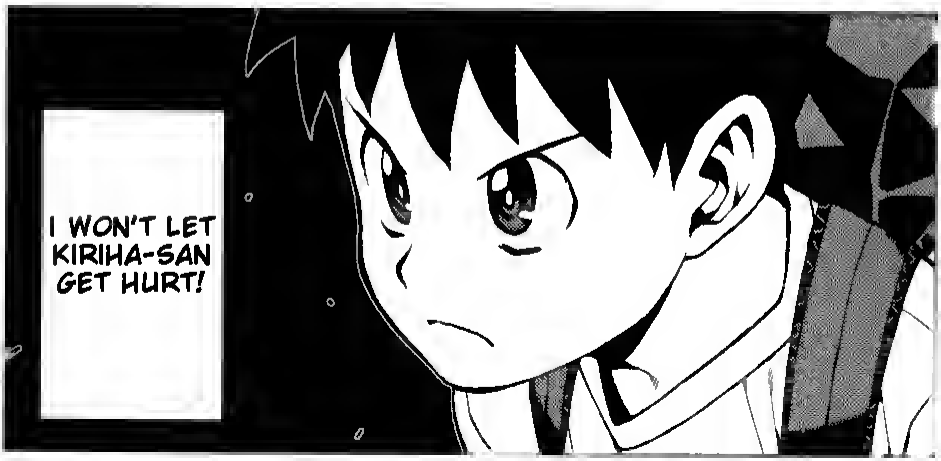
THE ORIGINAL IS DAMAGED! THE ENERGY WENT TOWARDS RECOVERY, SO THE SUBSTITUTE DISAPPEARED!
UGH ...!
HUH!? THE SUBSTI-TUTE!?
ONE DISAPP-EARED!
!
OH SNAP!

WOAA!
THE TIDES HAVE TURNED!
IDIOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU BLOCK IT WITH SHIELD WEAVE!?
AGH!
DON'T THINK I'LL LET YOU RECOVER!!

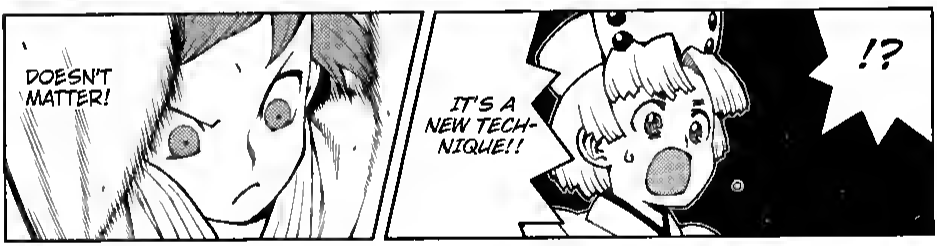
KAZU-YA!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING! HURRY UP AND USE SHIELD WEAVE!
SHIELD WEAVE, EVEN BASKET WEAVE, IT'S ALL TOO LATE!
WE'RE INSIDE THE SWORD'S REACH!
BUT IF I USE IT NOW, KIRIHA WILL SUFFER GRAVE DAMAGE!
AND TO REPLACE THE SUBSTITUTE, WE NEED THE ORIGINAL!
SHIELD WEAVE NEEDS 2 OBIS!
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT USING ME.
YOUR SOFTNESS WILL GET YOU KILLED SOME DAY!

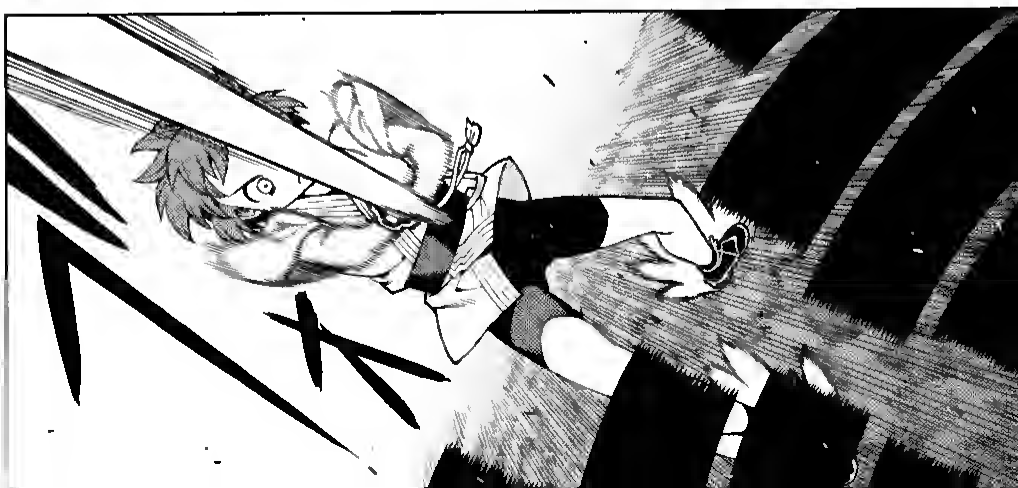
I WILL WIN THIS DUEL AND ALSO PROTECT KIRIHA-SAN!
ゴゴゴ
I WILL MAN UP!


HOW-EVER!
I WON'T HESITATE TO USE YOU.


I WON'T LET KIRIHA-SAN GET HURT!

ENFORCED ARM WEAVE!


DOESN'T MATTER!
IT'S A NEW TECH-NIQUE!!
!?



...OF COUR-SE!
WHY !?
HE'S USING ENFORCED ARM WEAVE HERE!?
THAT IS!!

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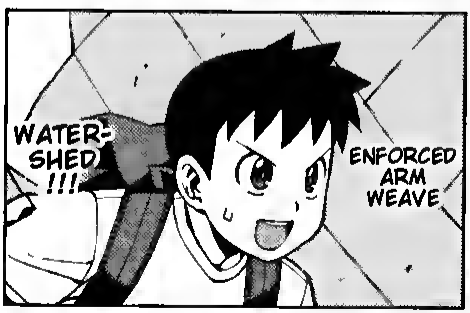
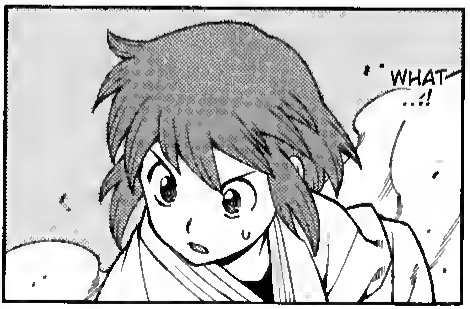

WATER-
SHED
!!!
ENFORCED
ARM
WEAVE


WHAT
..!

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
IT'S FORMED BY USING TWO OBIS AS ARMS!
HOW-EVER!
FIRST, ENFOR-CED ARM WEAVE ...!
SO!
NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, YOU CAN'T BLOCK A SWORD WITH JUST AN OBI!
THE WATER-SHED WALL!

IT WAS MADE SO THAT THE SWORD WOULD ONLY GRAZE THE WALL ITSELF.
THEN THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BLADE WOULD BE GRADUALLY DEFLECTED
AND JUST GRAZE PAST THE OBI'S CURVED SURFACE.
IT'S AN INCREDIBLE OBI TECHNIQUE!
THE RESULT BEING THAT THE SWORD COULD ATTACK NEITHER KAZUYA NOR OBI!

MY STRIKE WAS BLOCKED BY A MERE OBI...
SUNAO! WATCH OUT!
UGH!
CREAK
CREAK

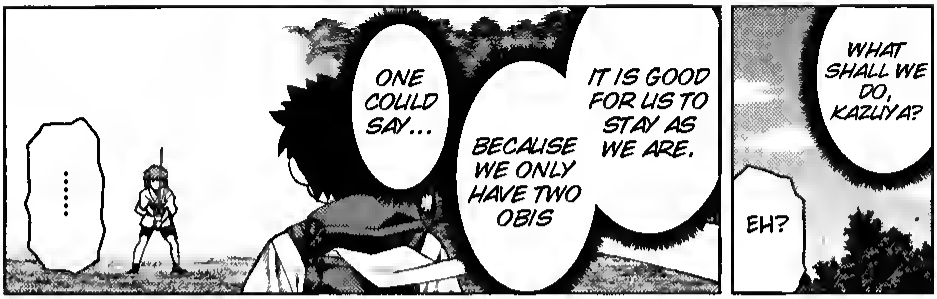
GAH!
SUNAO'S WATER DOLL CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!
ビッ
ビッ
ヒュ
ヒュ
RIGHT!
SHE'S RUNNING BECAUSE SHE'S AT A DISADVANTAGE! DON'T LET UP!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SUNAO'S RETREATED!
DON'T GET SO COCKY!
DOUBLE CLAW!!

バハッ
!!
WATER-SHED!
SHUT IT!
YOU'RE WASTING TOO MUCH OF YOUR ENERGY! BE CAREFUL, SUNAO!
AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH WON'T WORK ANY MORE!
I MAY HAVE BEEN OVER-WHELMED UNTIL NOW...

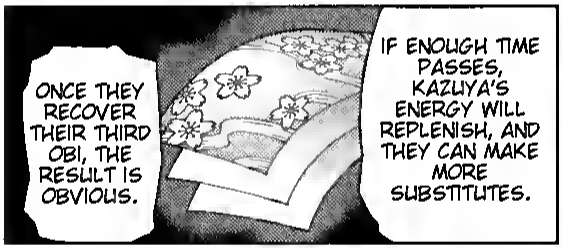
BUT I'LL TURN THIS AROUND BY FORCE!
I'LL TRY MAKING ANOTHER SUBSTI-TUTE!
DID SHE REALIZE SUBSTITUTES DISAPPEAR IF THE MAIN BODY IS DAMAGED!?
IT'S A SUBST-ITUTE...
IMMEDI-ATELY AFTER BLOCKING ...
AIR SLASH!!

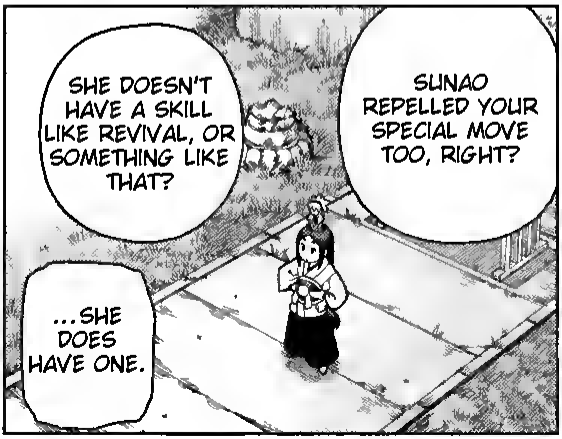
ARGH!
YOU CAN'T HIT HER EVEN AT NORMAL DISTANCE LIKE THIS!
LOOK FOR OPENINGS!!

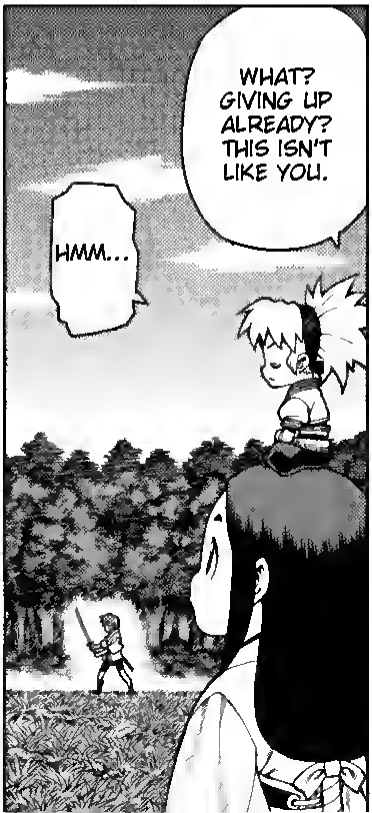
HMM. SINCE WHOEVER STRIKES FIRST WILL BE AT A DISADVANTAGE.
THEY STOPPED.
IF THE OPPONENT ATTACKS, THEY CAN'T BLOCK MY MOVES, SO THEY WON'T BE ATTACKING.
AIR SLASH AND GROUND SLASH WON'T WORK ANY MORE.
BUT IF I WANT TO WIN, I NEED TO GET WITHIN SWORD RANGE!
IF I BLOCK WITH ENFORCED ARM WEAVE OR SHIELD WEAVE, I CAN'T EXPLOIT THE OPENING, AS I NEED THREE OBIS FOR THAT.
RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TWO OBIS.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I SHOULD JUST MAINTAIN MY DISTANCE.
IF I GET HIT WHILE CLOSING IN, IT'S ALL OVER!
HOWEVER, MY WATER DOLL IS AT ITS LIMIT.


.....
ONE COULD SAY...
BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE TWO OBIS
IT IS GOOD FOR US TO STAY AS WE ARE.
EH?
WHAT SHALL WE DO, KAZUYA?

IT'S OVER.

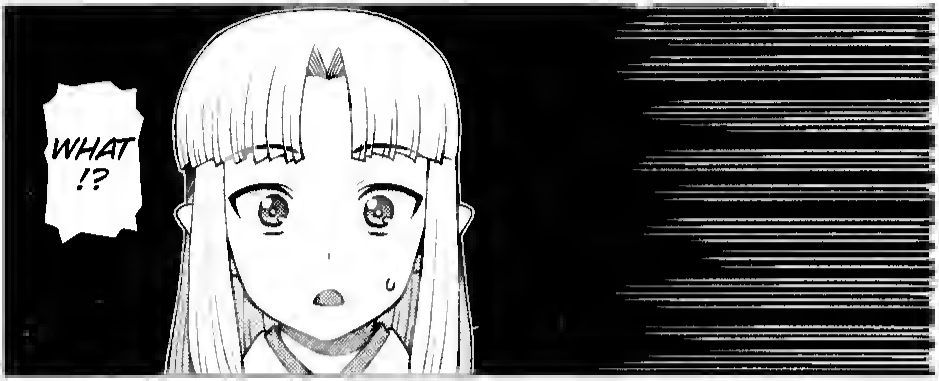

ONCE THEY RECOVER THEIR THIRD OBI, THE RESULT IS OBVIOUS.
IF ENOUGH TIME PASSES, KAZUYA'S ENERGY WILL REPLENISH, AND THEY CAN MAKE MORE SUBSTITUTES.

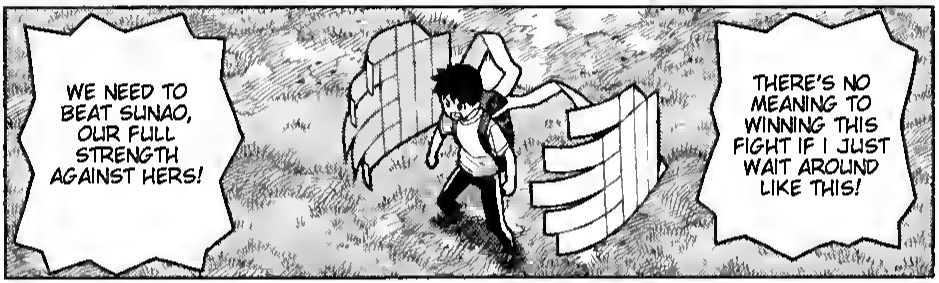

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A SKILL LIKE REVIVAL, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
SUNAO REPELLED YOUR SPECIAL MOVE TOO, RIGHT?
...SHE DOES HAVE ONE.

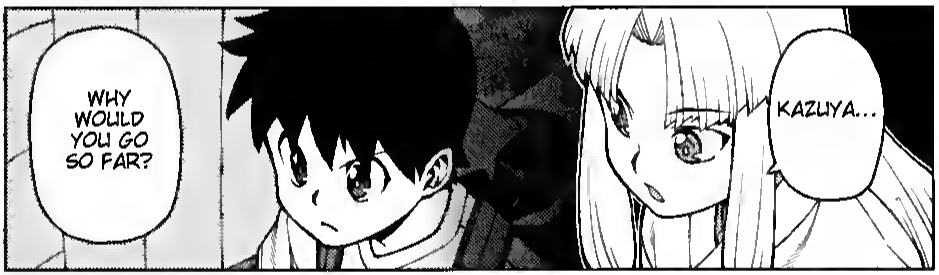

WHAT? GIVING UP ALREADY? THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
HMM...

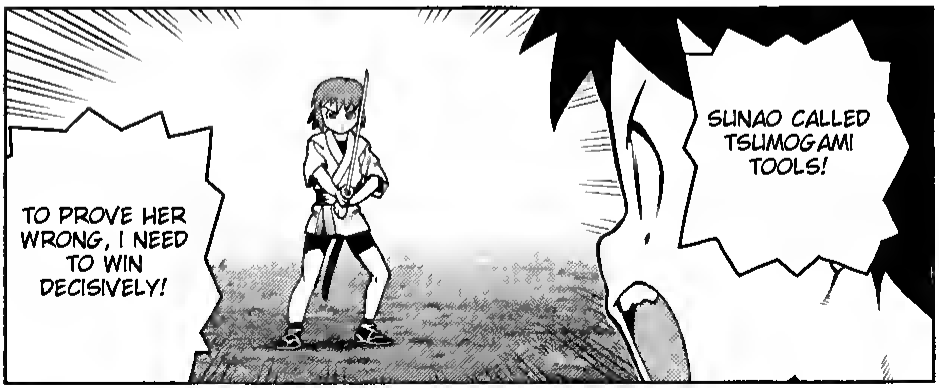
THE TECHNIQUE THAT ALLOWED HER TO BLOCK "FLAME OF THE HEAVENS."
WHAT ...
FLAME OF THE HEAV-ENS!?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE VERY HELLFIRE OF THE SUN THAT MELTS THE EARTH ITSELF!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOUR EXORCIST !?
I WAS QUITE POSITIVE SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO BLOCK IT!
AND SHE REALLY DID!

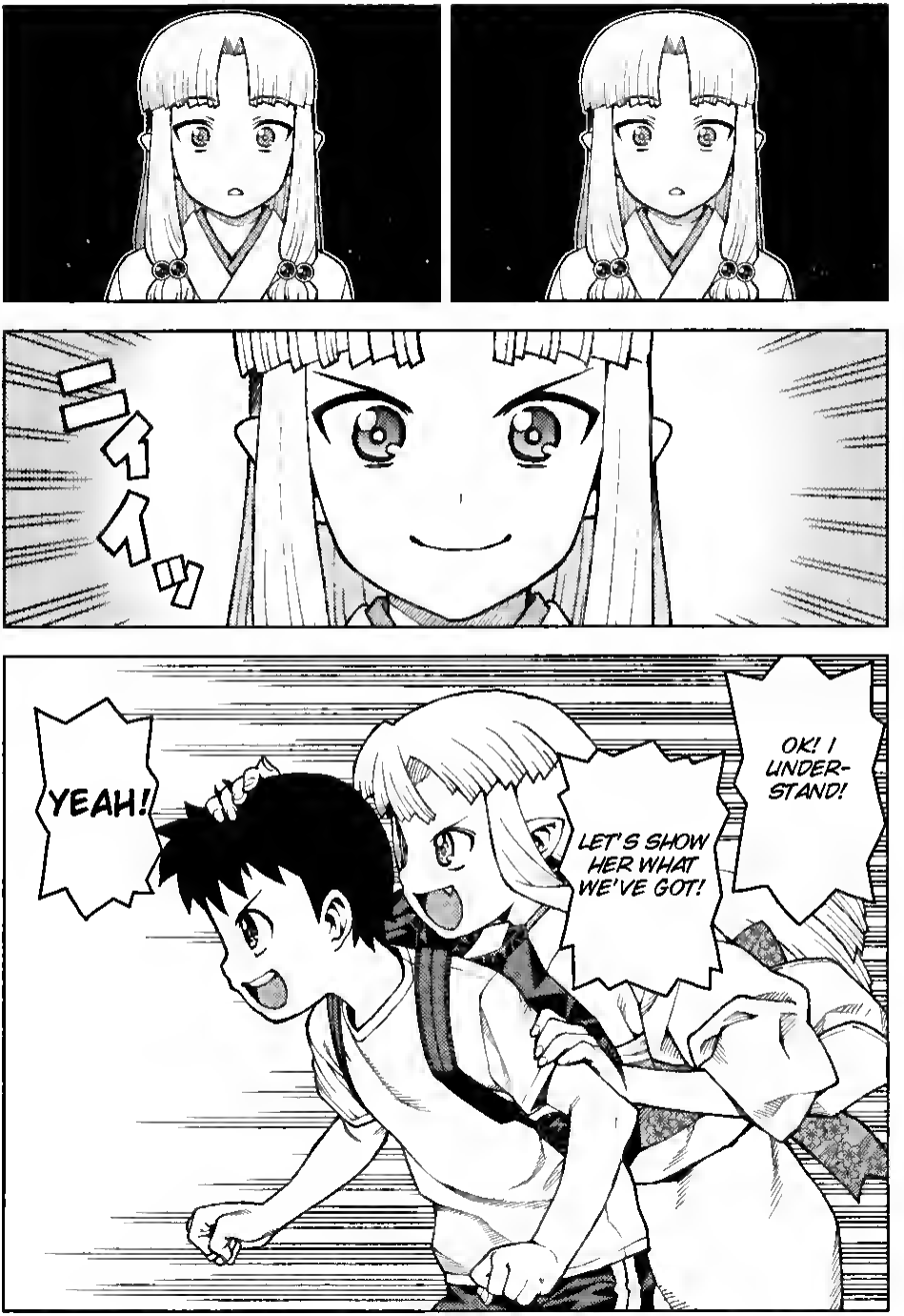
IT'S LIMITED TO THE SWORD'S NORMAL RANGE.
THAT SECRET SWORD TECHNIQUE... IT'S STRONG, NO DOUBT. HOWEVER,
HUH?
OK, WHAT ABOUT THAT?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
ジリ…
RIGHT NOW, SUNAO CAN'T CLOSE THE DISTANCE.
I DON'T WANT TO!

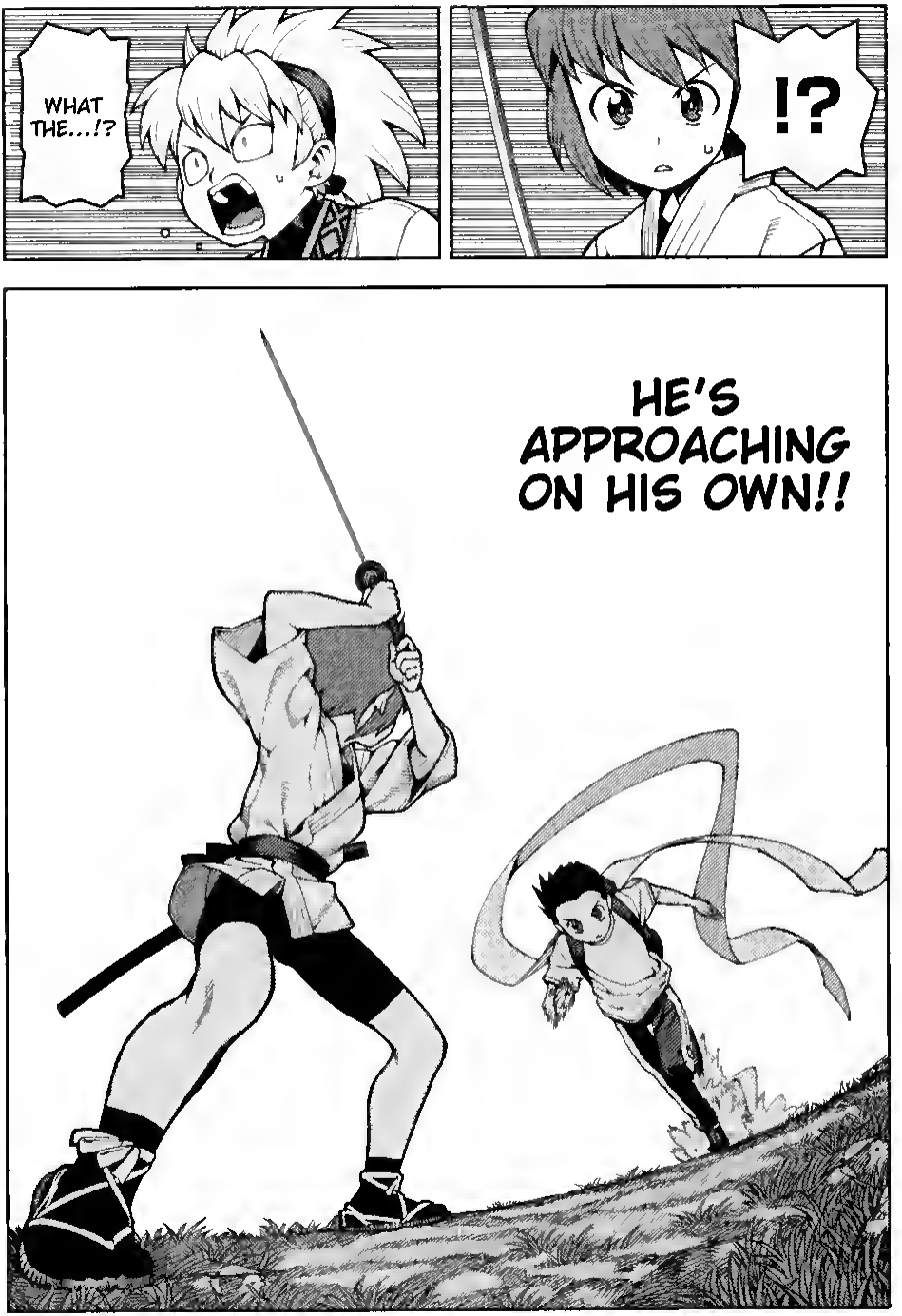

WHAT!?


WE NEED TO BEAT SUNAO, OUR FULL STRENGTH AGAINST HERS!
THERE'S NO MEANING TO WINNING THIS FIGHT IF I JUST WAIT AROUND LIKE THIS!

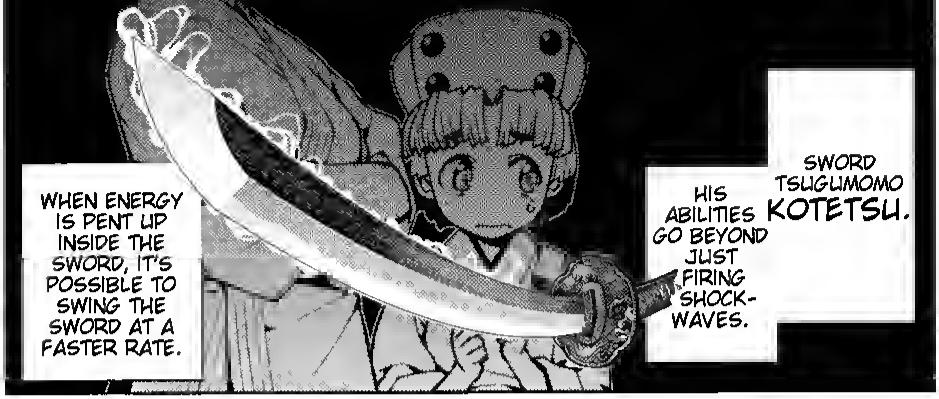

WHY WOULD YOU GO SO FAR?
KAZUYA...


TO PROVE HER WRONG, I NEED TO WIN DECISIVELY!
SUNAO CALLED TSUMOGAMI TOOLS!

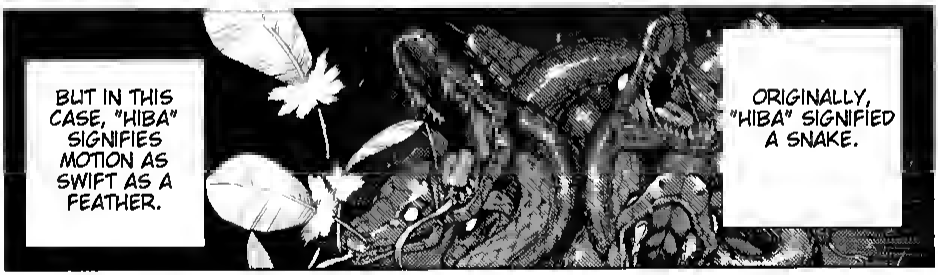

ニィィッ
YEAH!
LET'S SHOW HER WHAT WE'VE GOT!
OK! I UNDER-STAND!


WHAT THE...!?
!?
HE'S APPROACHING ON HIS OWN!!

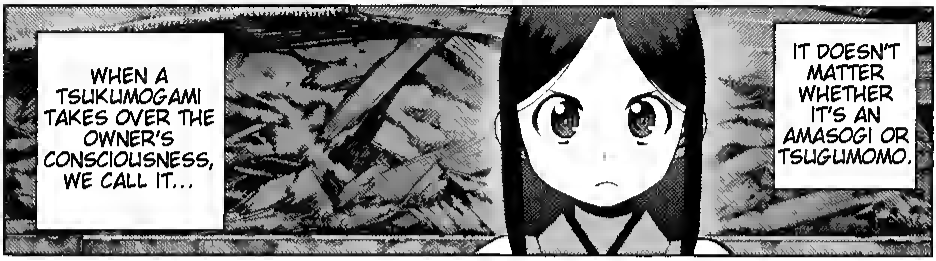
I UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT BASTARD'S THINKING!
NO, I UNDERSTAND!
THEY COULD HAVE WON IF THEY HAD JUST STAYED PUT AND RECOVERED!
THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOING FOR!
DEFEAT THE OPPONENT AFTER OVERCOMING EVERYTHING THEY HAVE TO OFFER!
SECRET SWORD TECHNIQUE, HIBAKIRI!
SHOW HIM, SUNAO!
HIS MISTAKE!
YES!
LET'S GO, KOTETSU!


SWORD TSUGUMOMO KOTETSU.
HIS ABILITIES GO BEYOND JUST FIRING SHOCK-WAVES.
WHEN ENERGY IS PENT UP INSIDE THE SWORD, IT'S POSSIBLE TO SWING THE SWORD AT A FASTER RATE.

HIBAKIRI IS A SKILL THAT EXPLOITS THIS SWIFTNESS TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT.
SUNAO SUPPRESSED MY FLAME OF THE HEAVENS WITH THIS POWER!

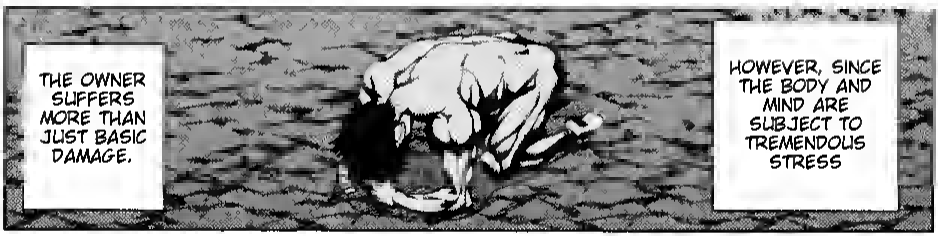

ORIGINALLY, "HIBA" SIGNIFIED A SNAKE.
BUT IN THIS CASE, "HIBA" SIGNIFIES MOTION AS SWIFT AS A FEATHER.

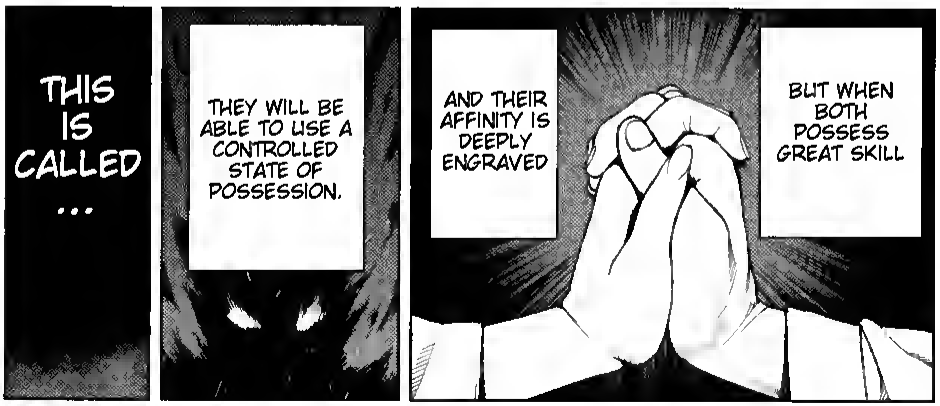
THE ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE THAT ALLOWS DOZENS OF BLOWS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
YOU CANNOT JUST BLOCK THIS ATTACK WITH AN OBI!


WHEN A TSUKUMOGAMI TAKES OVER THE OWNER'S CONSCIOUSNESS, WE CALL IT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S AN AMASOGI OR TSUGUMOMO.

WHILE POSS-ESSED, THE OWNER'S POWER, SPEED, AND REFLEXES
ALL EXCEED THE LIMITS OF THE HUMAN BODY.

POSSE-SSION.

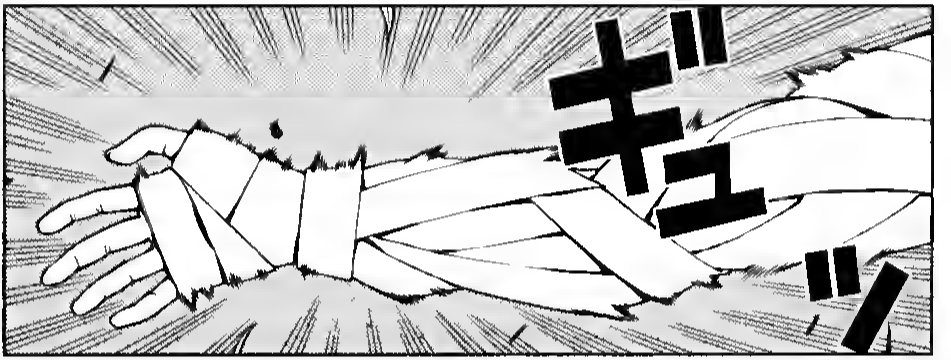

THE OWNER SUFFERS MORE THAN JUST BASIC DAMAGE.
HOWEVER, SINCE THE BODY AND MIND ARE SUBJECT TO TREMENDOUS STRESS


THIS IS CALLED ...
THEY WILL BE ABLE TO USE A CONTROLLED STATE OF POSSESSION.
AND THEIR AFFINITY IS DEEPLY ENGRAVED
BUT WHEN BOTH POSSESS GREAT SKILL

ASCENSION

KAZUYA! GOOOO!
COULD HE HAVE REALLY MASTERED THIS TECHNIQUE!?
AND THAT WHITE HAIR! THE PROOF OF TSUKUMOGAMI ASCENSION!!
THAT SIGIL ON HIS FOREHEAD!

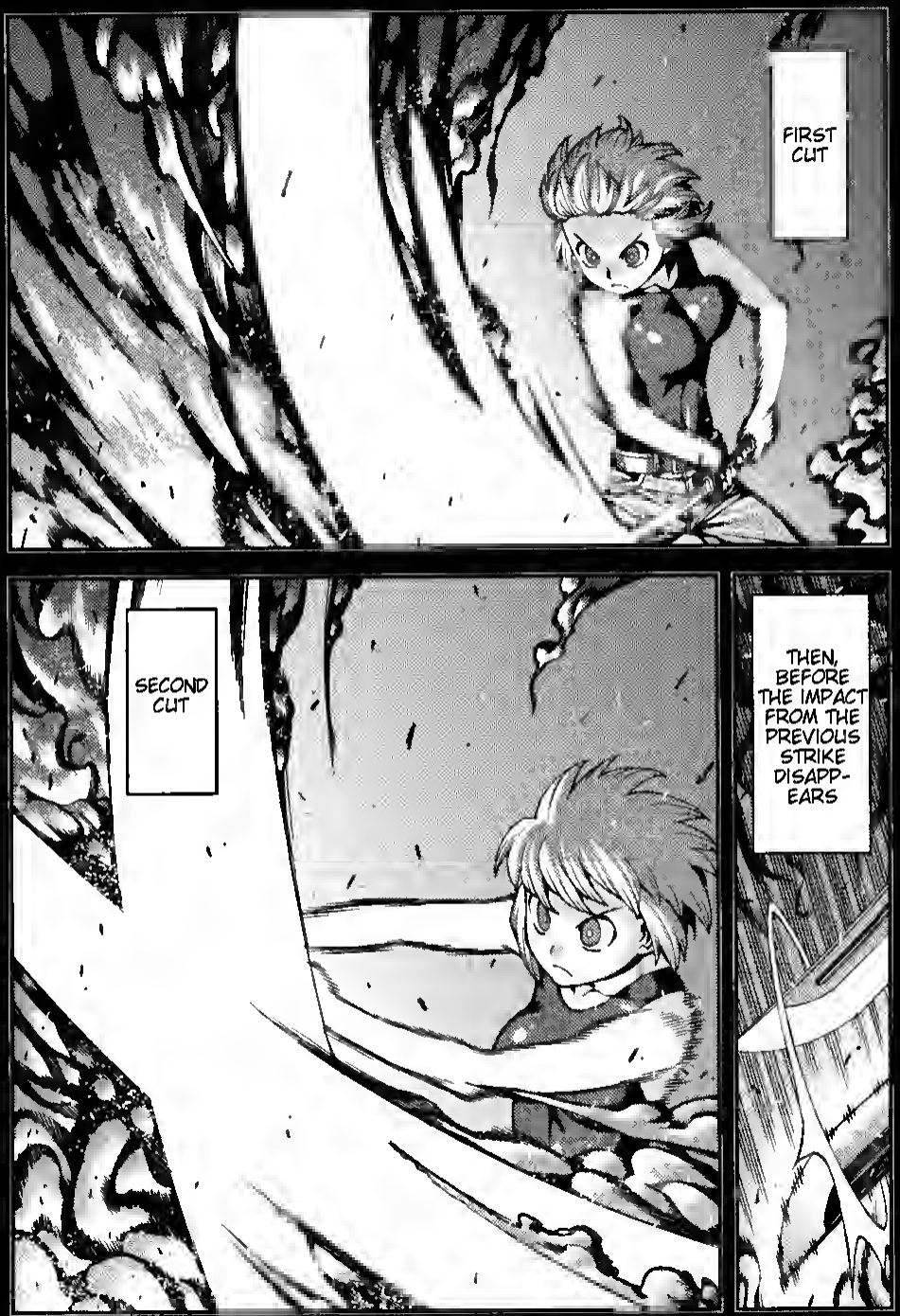
シュルルル


ギュッ

MUSCLE-
ENFORCING
WEAVE!!

SECRET
SWORD
TECHNIQUE
HIBAKIRI

Chapter 29: Sunao vs. Kazuya 4

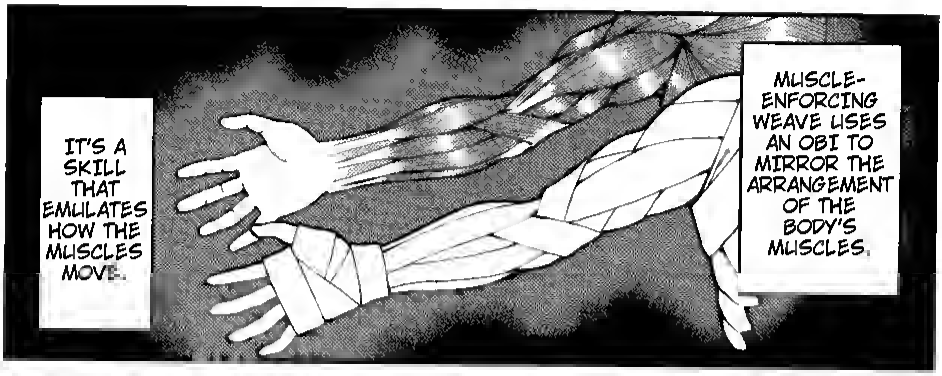

FIRST CUT
SECOND CUT
THEN, BEFORE THE IMPACT FROM THE PREVIOUS STRIKE DISAPP-EARS

CUT
CUT
CUT IT
CUT
THIS IS THE SECRET SWORD TECH-NIQUE HIBAKIRI!!
THE CONTINU-OUS STREAM OF CUTS BUILDS UP TO AN ENORMOUS IMPACT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

THIS IS A TECHNIQUE
YOU CANNOT BLOCK WITH A MERE OBI!!

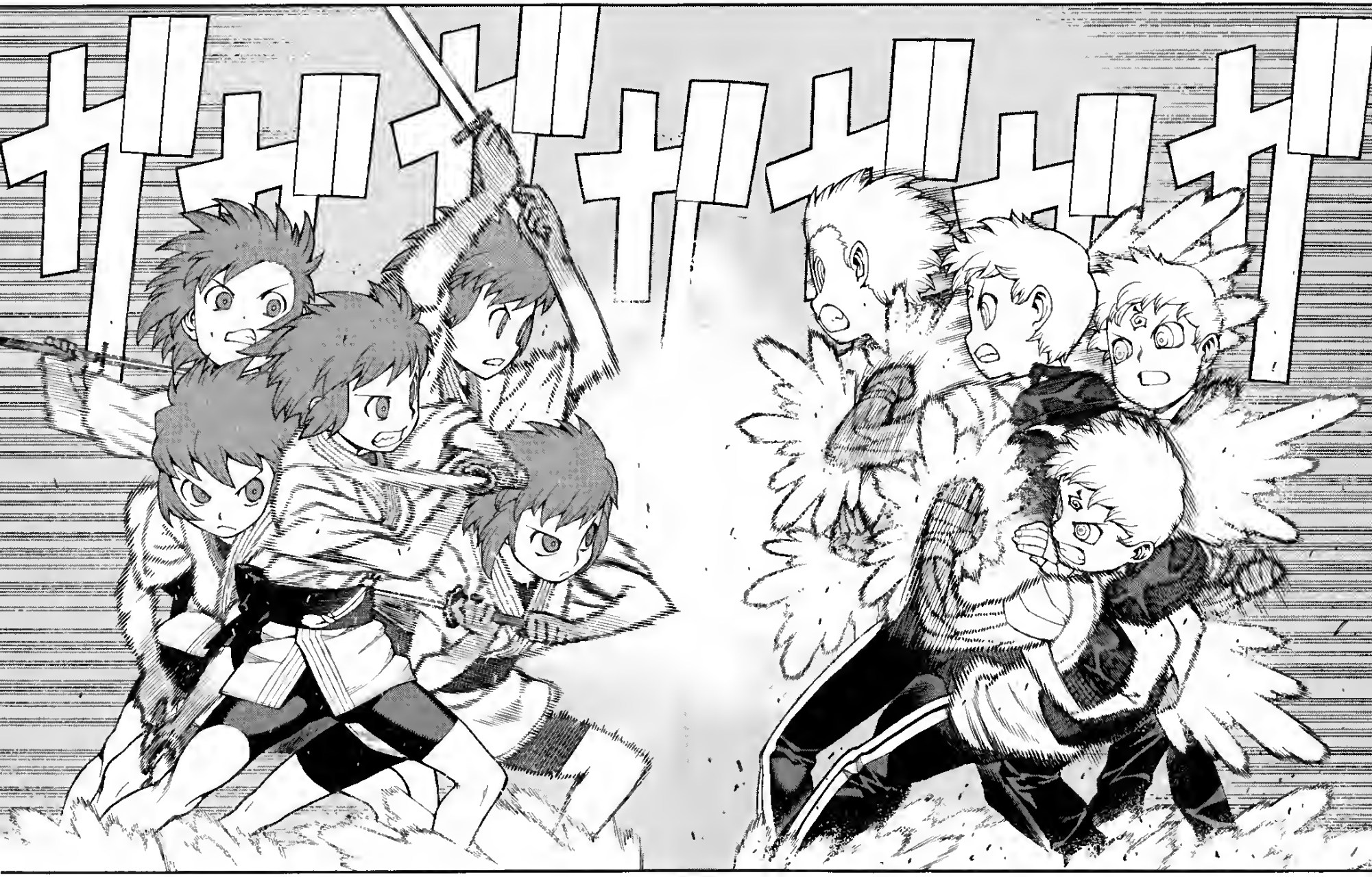
THIS IS NOT A TECHNIQUE YOU CAN BLOCK.
PROBABLY.
KIRIHA'S EYES CAN CATCH EVEN THESE FLASHING SWORDS.
HOWEVER, WITH THEIR ENHANCED SENSE OF TIMING
YOU ARE GOING TO GET HIT IF YOU CANNOT DODGE IT.
BUT SOME TRAJECTORIES ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO DODGE.
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE IT WITH NORMAL HUMAN STRENGTH.
THE SHARP AND POWERFUL METAL SWORD
COMING QUICKLY FROM THE SIDE

SO
MUSCLE ENFORCING WEAVE!!


IT'S A SKILL THAT EMULATES HOW THE MUSCLES MOVE.
MUSCLE-ENFORCING WEAVE USES AN OBI TO MIRROR THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE BODY'S MUSCLES.

THE CATCH IS THAT THE USER MAY POTENTIALLY RUIN THEIR BODY IF THEY DO NOT CONTROL IT PROPERLY.
WITH THIS TECHNIQUE, YOU GAIN HERCULEAN STRENGTH MANY TIMES GREATER THAN NORMAL.

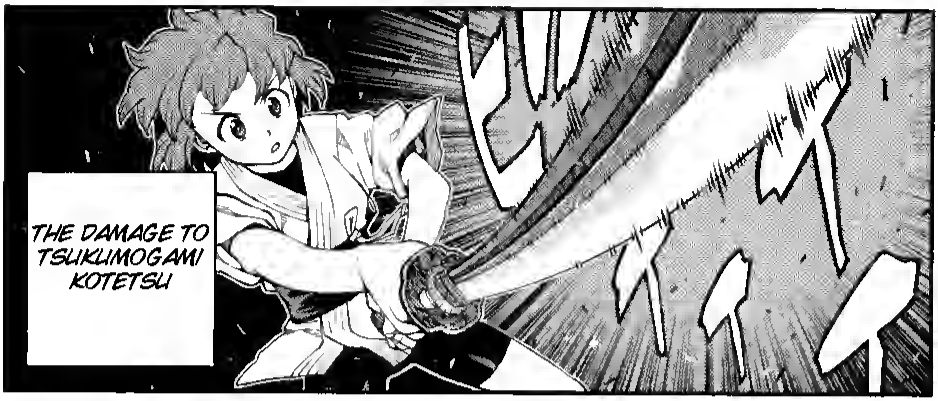
HE CAN MAINTAIN CONTROL OF IT THANKS TO HIS EXTREME CONCENTRATION.
WHILE KAZUYA HAS NOT MASTERED THIS SPECIFIC TECHNIQUE,



カ!!
カ!!
カ!!
キキキオオオオオオ

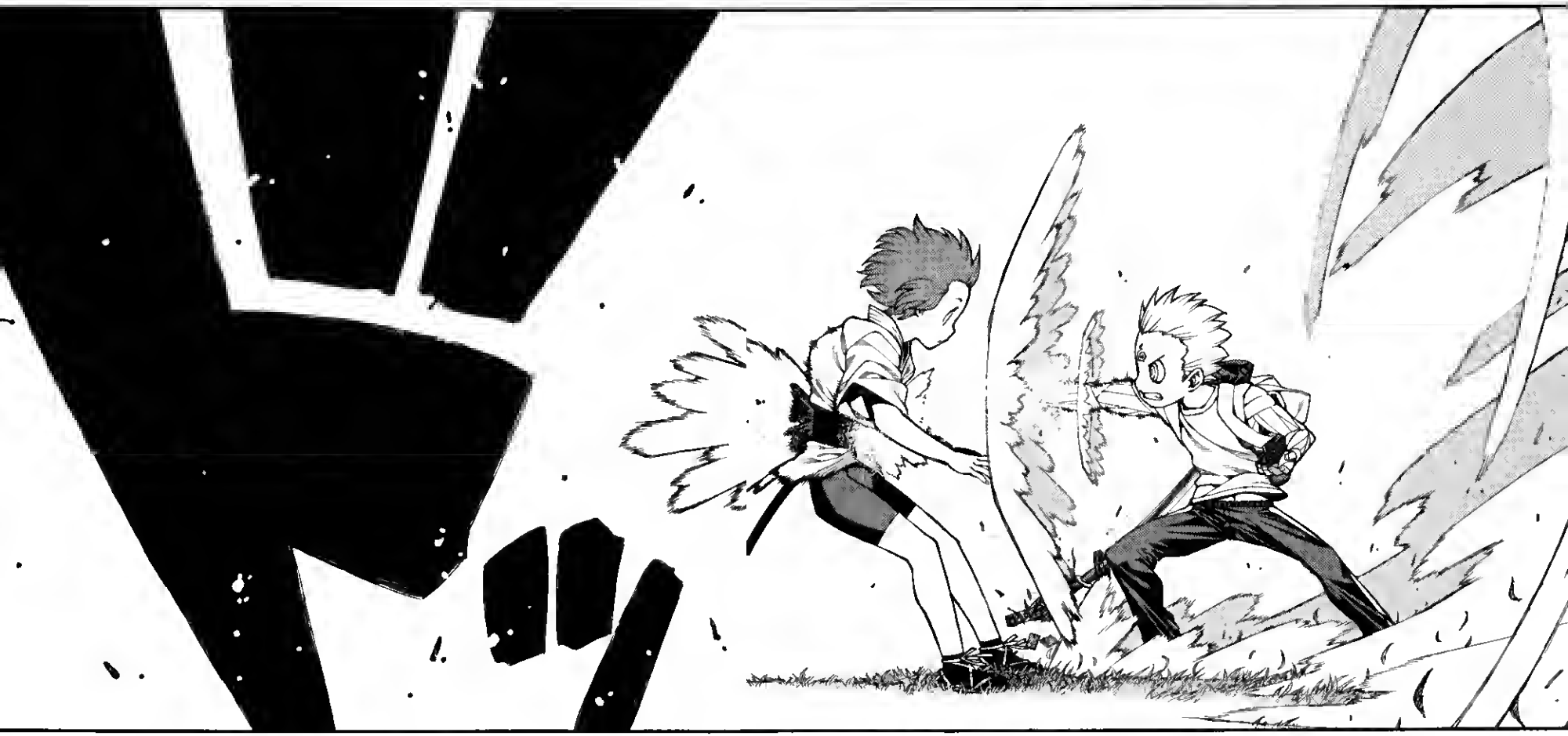
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THEY WERE AT THIS LEVEL!
I-IT'S A STALE-MATE!!
YES!!
ONE SLIP-UP COULD MEAN YOUR LIFE!
DODGE SWIFTLY AND PREC-ISELY!
IF I PULL OUT NOW, MY NAME WILL BE TARNISHED!
PULL YOUR FORM TOGETHER FIRST, THEN...
THIS CONFRO-NTATION IS TOO RISKY!
THE RESULT IS ALREADY DECIDED!
A STALE-MATE? NO, IT'S NOT!

!?
BECAUSE YOU OVERUSED AIR SLASH SO MUCH
YOUR CUTS ARE BEING INTERRUPTED BY LACK OF ENERGY!
NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!
GO!!
!?
HER ATTACKS ARE STARTING TO FALTER!!
ALSO ...

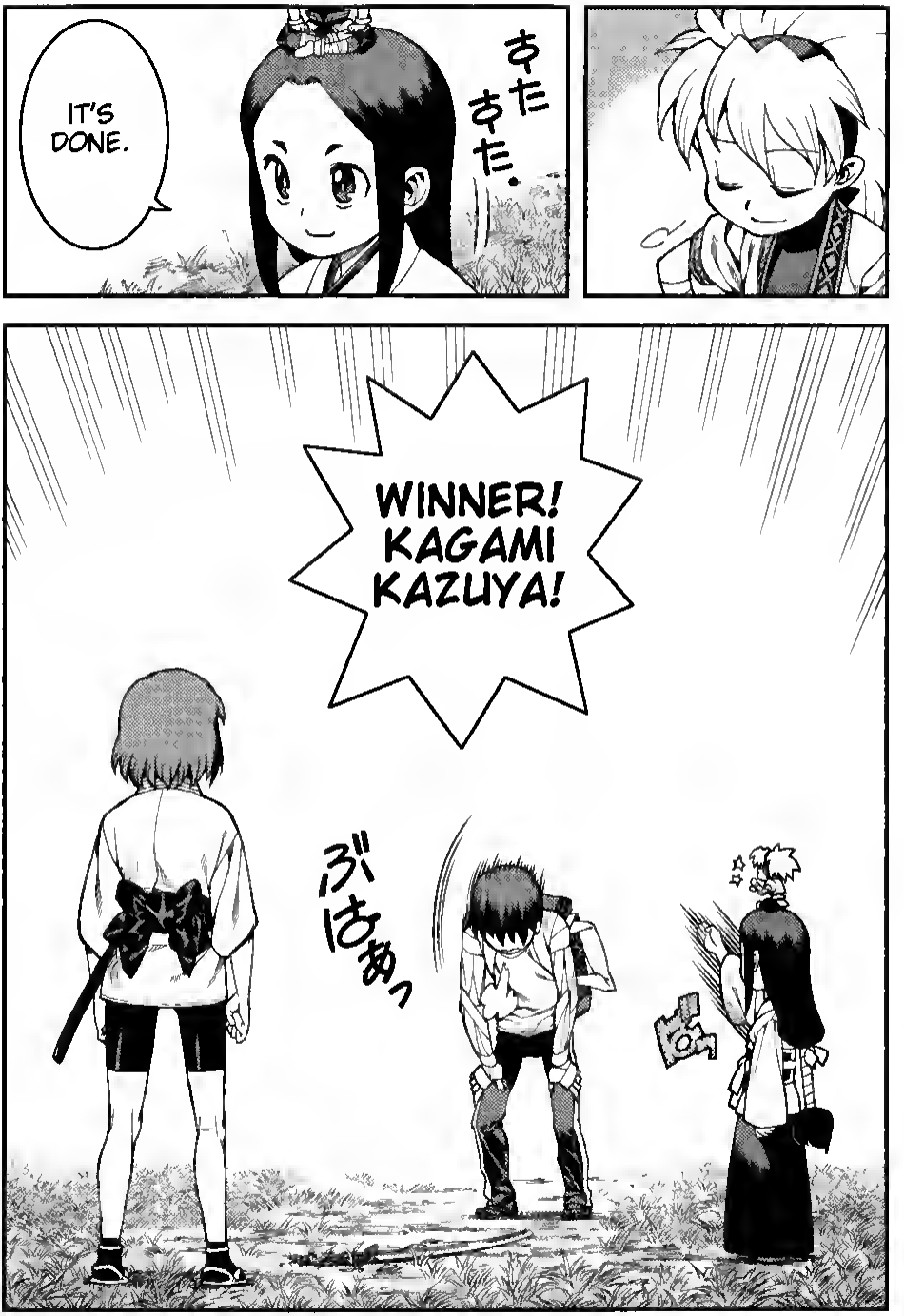

THE DAMAGE TO TSUKUMOGAMI KOTETSU

IS AT ITS LIMIT!

COILING SNAKE

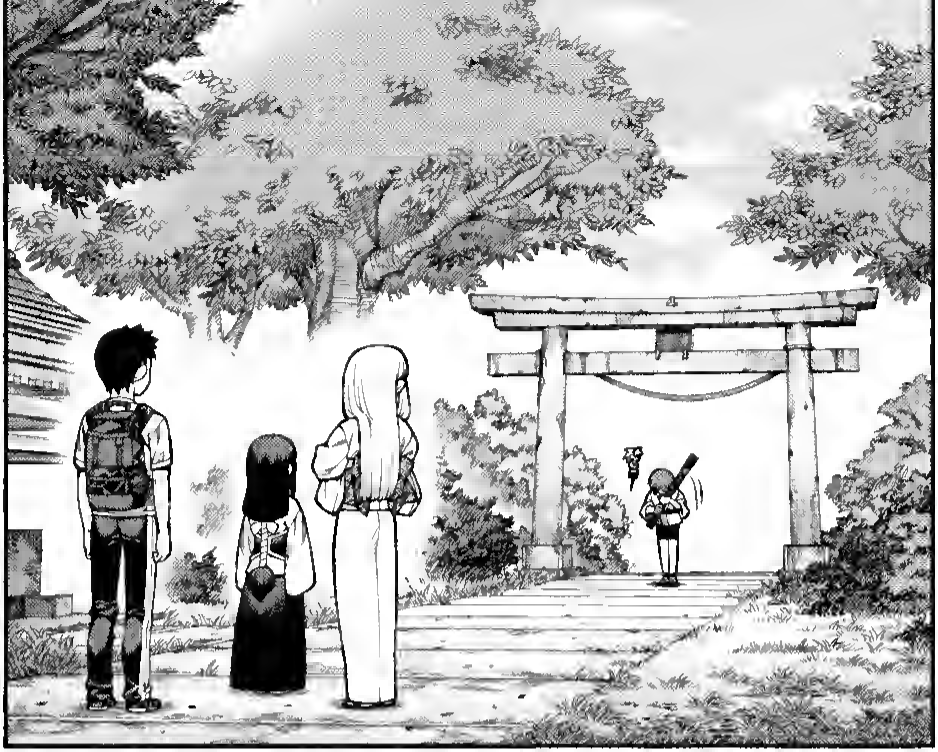


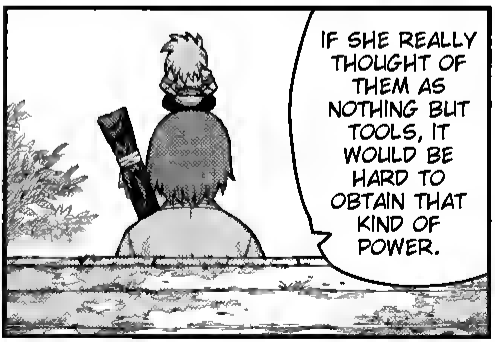
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

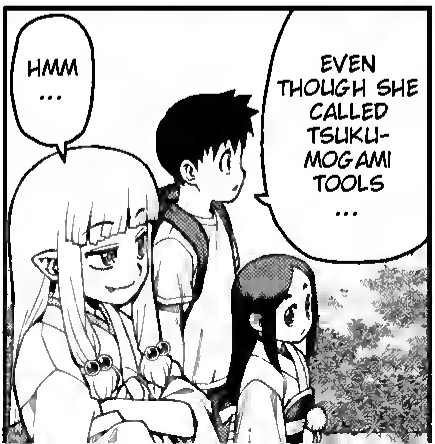

IT'S DONE.
きたきた。
WINNER! KAGAMI KAZUYA!
ぶはあっ

HMM...
YOU WERE SO COOL, KAZUYA!
AHAHA- THANKS-
I LOST ...
TO THAT BAST- ARD...
!...
KOTE- TSU!

HON-
OKA
...
!
DON'T WORRY, THE BLADE IS INTACT.
WELL, YOU CAN'T USE IT UNTIL THE HANDLE IS REPAIRED.
THANK HIM.
THAT GUY COULD HAVE BROKEN KOTETSU BACK THEN.
.....
ALL RIGHT.

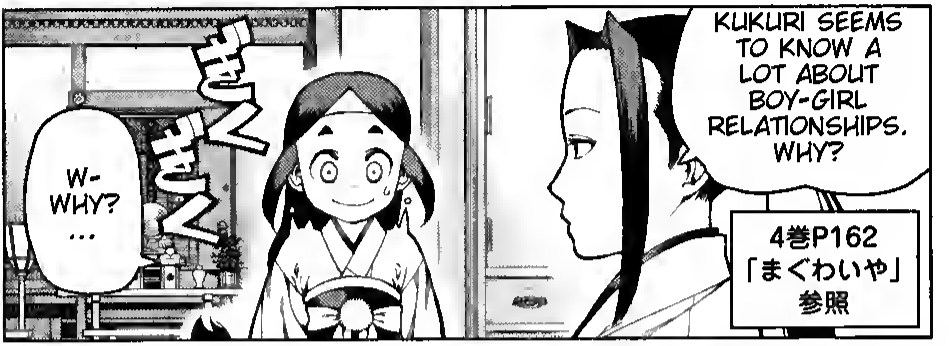


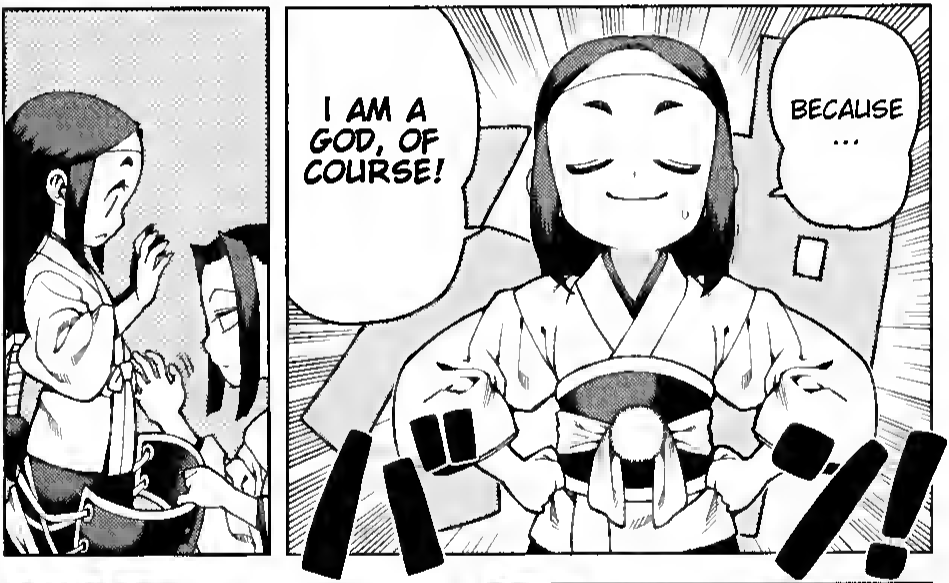

IF SHE REALLY THOUGHT OF THEM AS NOTHING BUT TOOLS, IT WOULD BE HARD TO OBTAIN THAT KIND OF POWER.


HMM ...
EVEN THOUGH SHE CALLED TSUKU-MOGAMI TOOLS ...

WELL~ WHAT AN INCREDIBLE VICTORY!
LET'S GO BACK TO OUR HOUSE AND HAVE A CEL-EBRATION PARTY!
ACTUALLY, IT'S MY HOUSE
IT'S MY HOUSE!
DON'T SAY THAT LIKE IT'S YOUR HOUSE!

Feigning Precocity



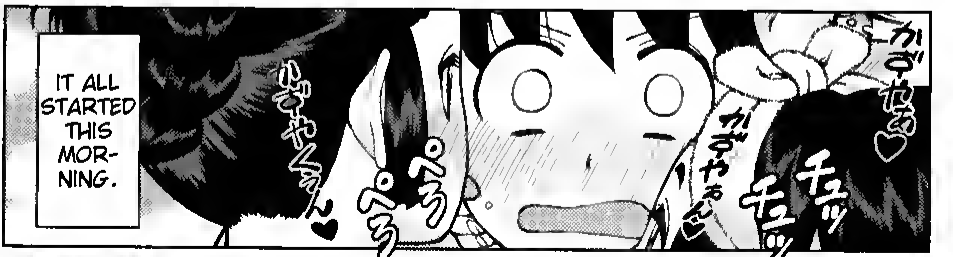


SFX: TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE

I-I'LL TALK ...
I'LL TALK, SO STOP TICKLING ME.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE TELLING ME NOW?
I WAS CLEANING KAZUYA'S HOUSE LIKE I ALWAYS DO.
ガガ
THEN ...
EH?
SO I TOOK KAZUYA'S DESK DRAWER OUT ...
THAT DAY, I WANTED TO CLEAN EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY

ドサドサ
COMIC EROSTORE
エロス!
I WAS JUST LOOKING OUT FOR KAZUYA SO THAT HE DIDN'T GET INTO ANY WEIRD HOBBIES!
N-NO! I WASN'T! I ONLY READ THEM ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK!
カアッ
SO YOU ARE SAYING YOU WERE SECRETLY READING THESE EVERY DAY.
KAZUYA WAS DEEPLY CONFUSED BY RANDOM DISAPPEAR-ANCES IN HIS COLLECTION.
Eh?
AFTER THAT
I-IT'S THE TRUTH!
... OK.

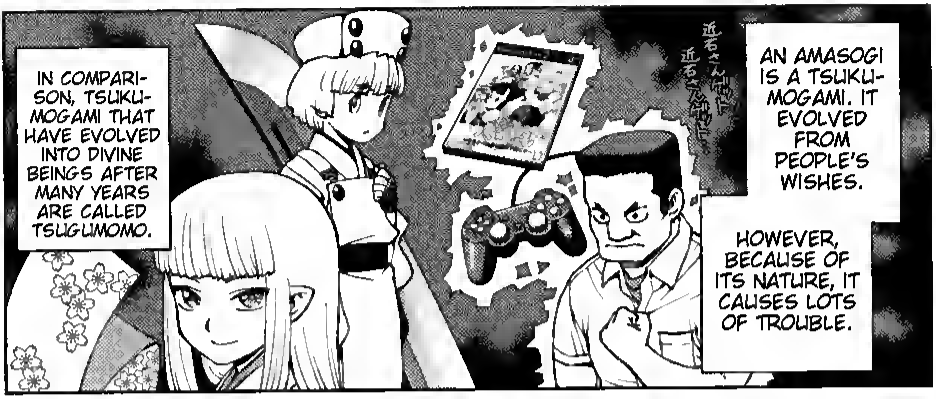
THIS
EMER-
GENCY
SITUA-
TION
ぎゅうう!!

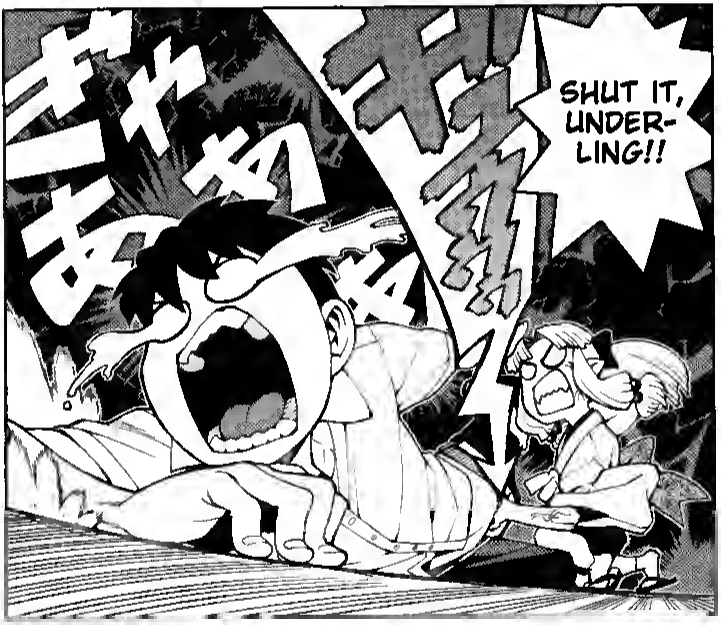

IT ALL
STARTED
THIS
MOR-
NING.
かぎやくん♥
ぺろ
ぺろ
かぎやくん♥
チュッ
チュッ

WHA...
YEAR 2 CLASS 2
OUSANAI
OSAMU
YEAR 2 CLASS 2
KAGAMI
KAZUYA
YEAR 2 CLASS 2
CHIKAISHI
CHISATO
KAMIOKA
HIGASI
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
きゃーきゃー
うふふ
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
バァーン!!

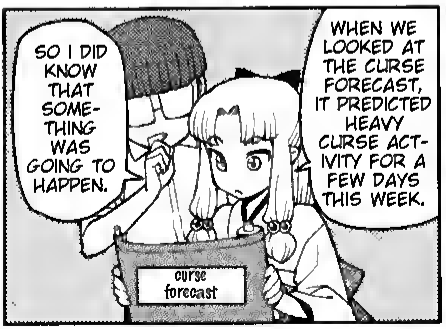
HEY HEY, IT'S KAZUYA AND THE CLASS REP AND OSAMU!
YOU GUYS ARE LATE!
YEAR 2 CLASS 2 SHIRAMINAE SHIROU
FFFF...
F-F-F-F-...
H-HOW...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!?
THUD
MCS!
AND TO SOMEONE LIKE MYSTERIOUSLY UNPOPULAR CHAMPION SHIRAMINE!
YEAR 2 CLASS 2'S MALE STUDENTS
FILTHY!! DISPERSE THIS SHAMELESS HAREM THIS INSTANT!
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU BOOKWORM! DON'T DISRUPT OUR LOVE!
FOR AN UNPOPULAR GUY LIKE THAT TO SUDDENLY HAVE GIRLS FALLING ALL OVER HIM...
IT'S SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS OFTEN IN THE 2D WORLD
BUT THIS IS THE 3D WORLD...
UNLESS...

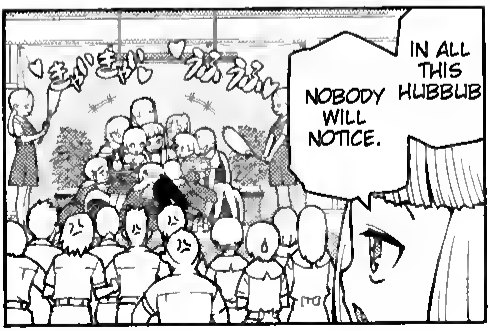
AN AMA-SOGI MUST BE BEHIND THIS!
IT'S A STRANGE EVENT!
OBI TSUKU-MOGAMI "TSUGU-MOMO" KIRIHA
THAT'S RIGHT!
UNROLL


IN COMPARISON, TSUKUMOGAMI THAT HAVE EVOLVED INTO DIVINE BEINGS AFTER MANY YEARS ARE CALLED TSUKUMOMO.
AN AMASOGI IS A TSUKUMOGAMI. IT EVOLVED FROM PEOPLE'S WISHES.
HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF ITS NATURE, IT CAUSES LOTS OF TROUBLE.


SHUT IT, UNDERLING!!

HOLD ON, KIRIHA! DON'T JUST POP OUT OF NOWHERE! WHAT IF MY CLASSMATES SEE YOU!?
EH?

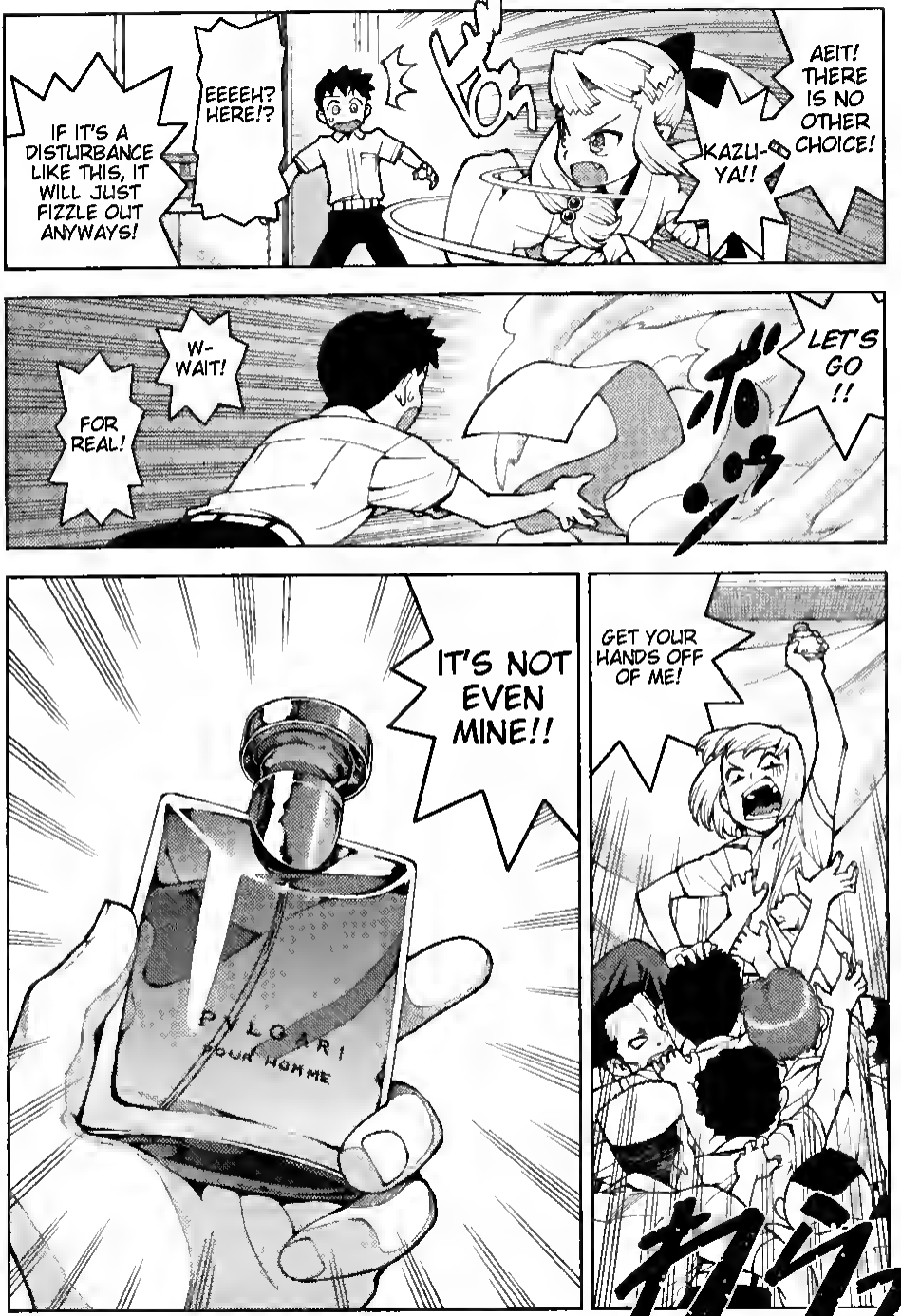

SO I DID KNOW THAT SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
WHEN WE LOOKED AT THE CURSE FORECAST, IT PREDICTED HEAVY CURSE ACTIVITY FOR A FEW DAYS THIS WEEK.
curse forecast


IN ALL THIS HUBBUB NOBODY WILL NOTICE.

THE TWISTED ASPECT OF OUR WORLD THAT RESPONDS TO OUR INNATE WISHES ...
THE CURSE ...
WHEN THE CURSE CONCENTRATION BECOMES HIGH ENOUGH, AMASOGI ARE MORE LIKELY TO APPEAR ..
YOU SAID THAT, CORRECT?
ALRIGHT, KAZUYA. YOU BECAME AN EXORCIST FOR THIS EXACT REASON.
RESOLVE THIS WITH GRACE.
AH, OK...
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD GRASP OF THIS STUFF, OSAMU
EXACTLY.
pat pat
THAT KIND OF EXPLANATION APPEARS A LOT IN MANGA.
RECENTLY, KAGAMI KAZUYA BECAME KAMIOKA'S EXORCIST FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER.
EXORCIST. HE WHO WIELDS TSUGUMOMO AND RECEIVES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MONSTER ERADICATION FROM A LOCAL GOD.
SHIROU! LISTEN WELL!
HUH? WHAT, KAZUYA?

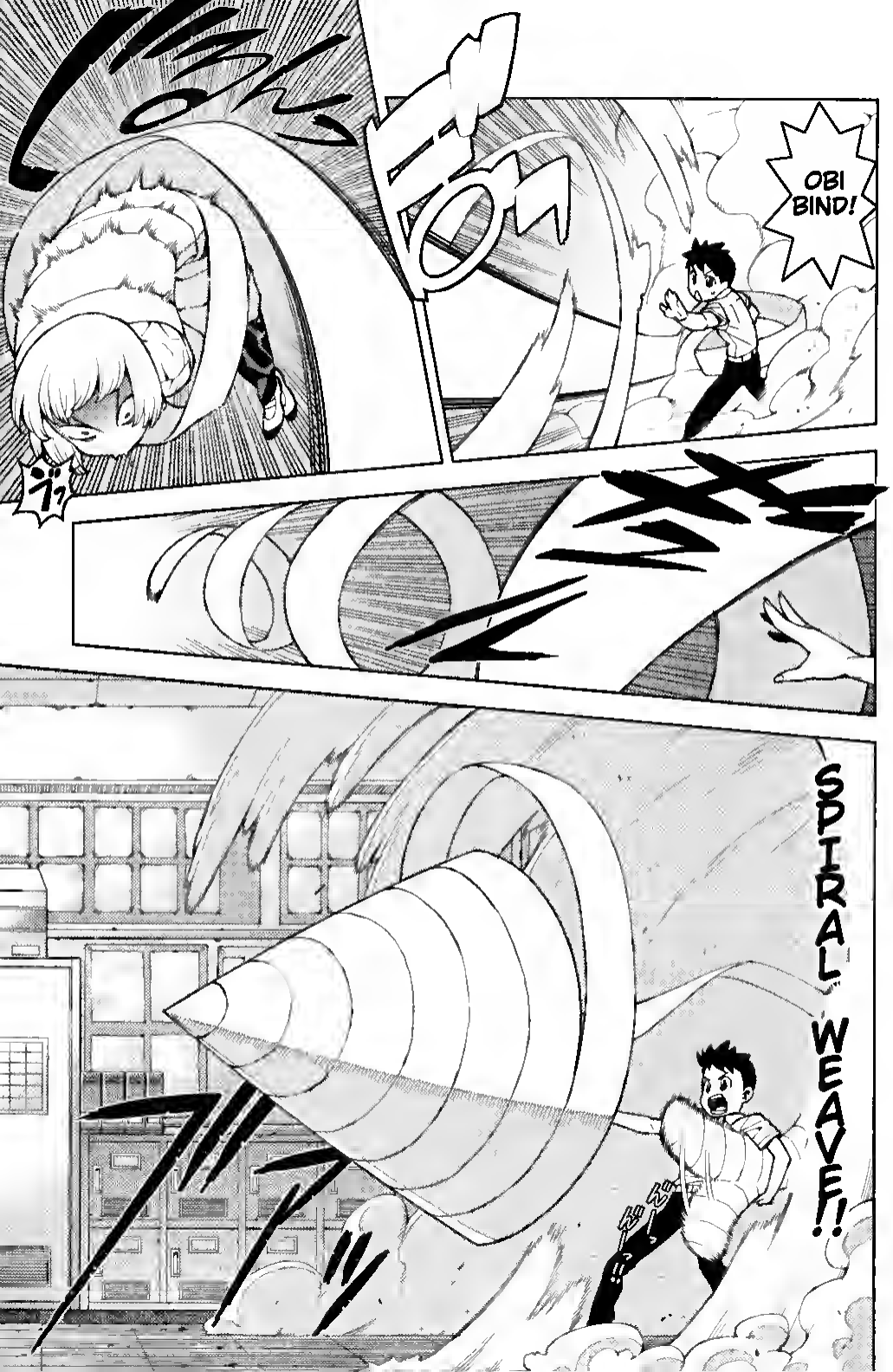
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE TOOL BEHIND YOUR MIS-BEGOTTEN POPULARITY!
BUT LOVE OBTAINED THROUGH SUCH A METHOD IS NOTHING BUT A LIE!
BREAK THAT TOOL WITH YOUR OWN HANDS, RIGHT NOW, AND RETURN TO HOW YOU WERE!
ONE WHO FORMS AMA-SOGI
TO GET RID OF THE AMASOGI'S EFFECT, THE CREATOR MUST BREAK IT HIMSELF.
IF ANYONE ELSE BREAKS IT, THERE'S A CHANCE THE CURSE WILL REBOUND ON THE CREATOR AND MAKE HIM ITS HOST.
ゴシャッ
ギゃあぁ
THAT IDIOT ...
FOOL! IF HE SAYS IT LIKE THAT...
A TOOL THAT MAKES YOU MORE POPULAR ...?
USE IT TO MAKE A HAREM ...?
ANY-ONE ...?

IT DEFINITELY ISN'T BECAUSE I SPRAYED MYSELF WITH A STRANGE PERFUME !!!
S-S... STUPID! THAT'S NOT IT!
ALL OF THESE GIRLS MERELY REALIZED HOW CHARISMATIC I TRULY AM!
YOU'RE SAYING IT'S .. POPULARITY-BOOSTING PERFUME?
PERFUME ...?
AND THERE'S ANOTHER IDIOT, RIGHT THERE.
AH ...
HAND THAT PERFUME OVER TO US RIGHT NOW!!!
TO US
ひ...
しり!

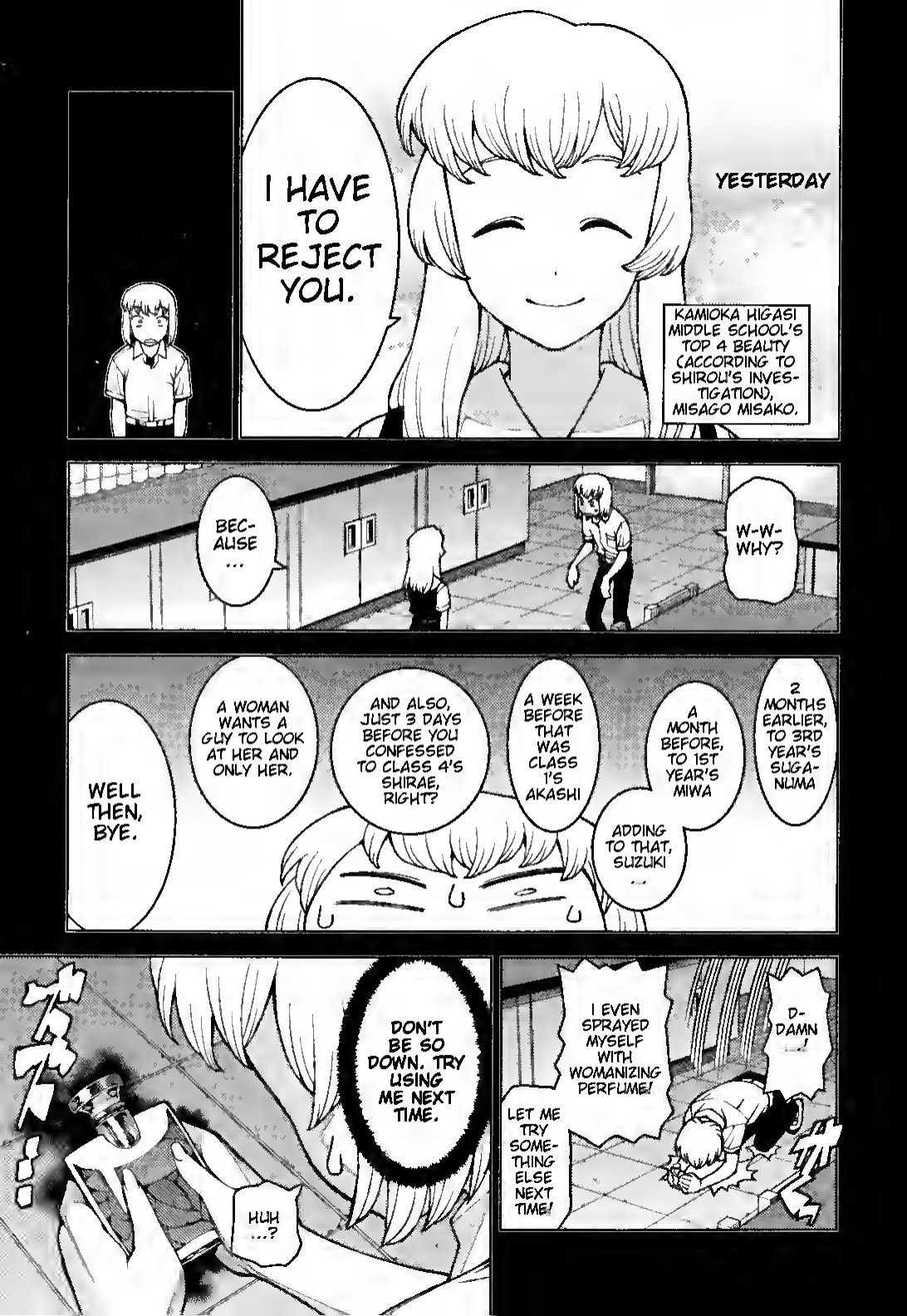

IF IT'S A DISTURBANCE LIKE THIS, IT WILL JUST FIZZLE OUT ANYWAYS!
EEEEH? HERE!?
KAZU-YA!!
AEIT! THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE!
W-WAIT!
FOR REAL!
LET'S GO !!
IT'S NOT EVEN MINE!!
PVLGAR
POUR HOMME
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!
キャー

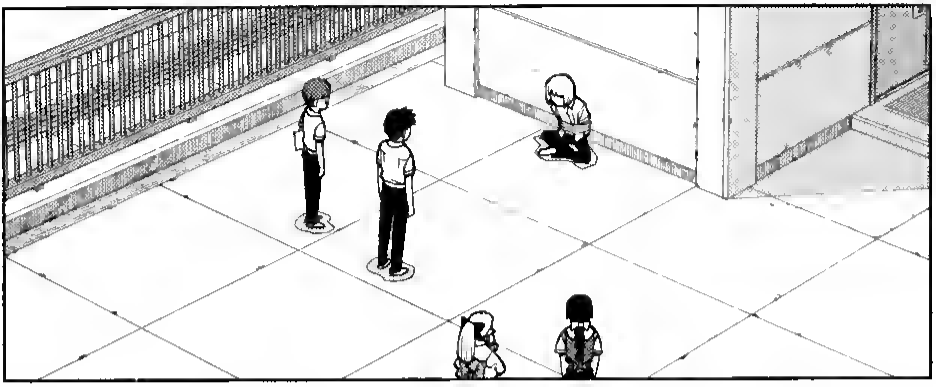
HUH?
OBI JAB !!
SORRY... AONO, AKAGI, ODA...
TAKE ADVANT-AGE OF THE CHAOS!
HURRY UP AND DEAL WITH THOSE ZOMBIE-LIKE BASTARDS!

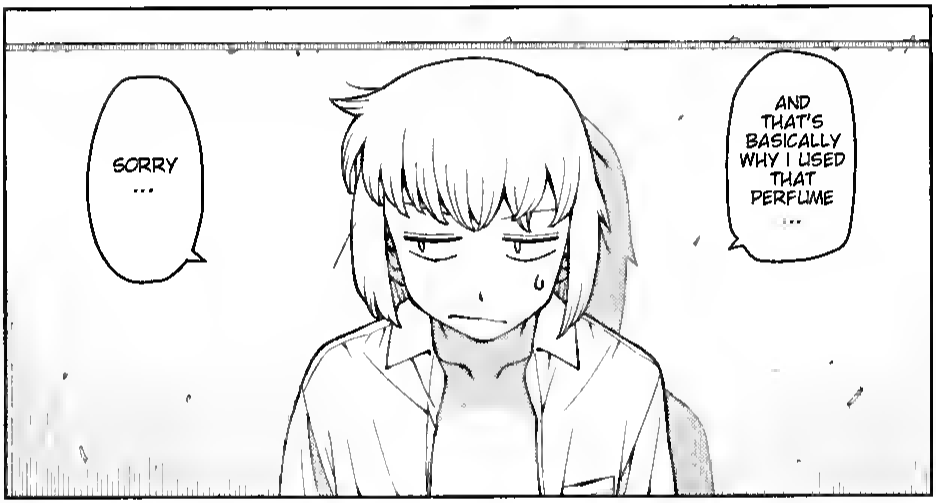
GO WITH THE HAMMER WEAVE!
OK!
HAMMER WEAVE!!!
WHAT IS THIS!?
W-W-WHA...

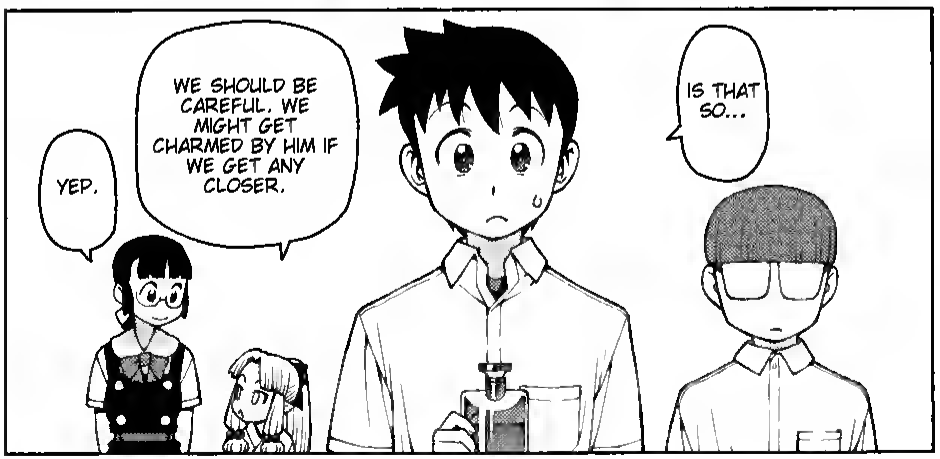

OBI BIND!
SPIRAL WEAVE!!

ドオン
COUGH
COUGH
W...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?


I HAVE TO REJECT YOU.
YESTERDAY
KAMIOKA HIGASI MIDDLE SCHOOL'S TOP 4 BEALITY (ACCORDING TO SHIROU'S INVESTIGATION), MISAGO MISAKO.
W-W-WHY?
BEC-AUSE ...
2 MONTHS EARLIER, TO 3RD YEAR'S SUGANUMA
A MONTH BEFORE, TO 1ST YEAR'S MIWA
A WEEK BEFORE THAT WAS CLASS 1'S AKASHI
AND ALSO, JUST 3 DAYS BEFORE YOU CONFESSED TO CLASS 4'S SHIRAE, RIGHT?
A WOMAN WANTS A GUY TO LOOK AT HER AND ONLY HER.
WELL THEN, BYE.
ADDING TO THAT, SUZUKI ...
D-DAMN ...!
I EVEN SPRAYED MYSELF WITH WOMANIZING PERFUME!
LET ME TRY SOME-THING ELSE NEXT TIME!
DON'T BE SO DOWN. TRY USING ME NEXT TIME.
HUH ...?

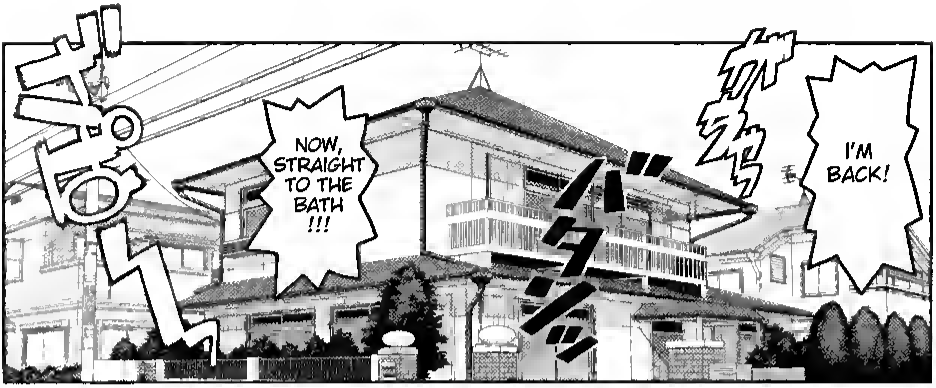


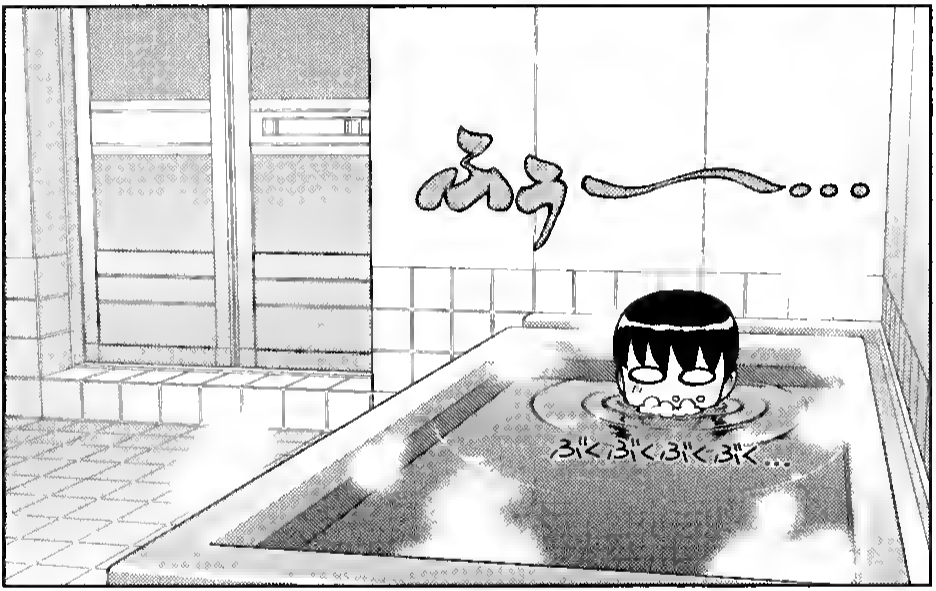

SORRY ...
AND THAT'S BASICALLY WHY I USED THAT PERFUME ...


YEP.
WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL. WE MIGHT GET CHARMED BY HIM IF WE GET ANY CLOSER.
IS THAT SO...

YEAH, I UNDER-STAND.
YOU CAN DESTROY IT, RIGHT?
YOU NEED TO DESTROY IT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS LIKE I JUST EXPLAINED. THAT WAY NOTHING BAD CAN HAPPEN.
HUH?
HYA!
OK, OK.
COME ON!
HUH?
IT'S A BIT WET.

IT'S TOO STRONG !!
KYAAAA AAAAA!!
IS JUST
THIS AMA-SOGI'S EFFECT
WAY TOO STRONG !!


I'M BACK!
NOW, STRAIGHT TO THE BATH !!!


ふぅ～～～
ぶくぶくぶくぶく…

コンコン
？
YES?

WELL, I CAN JUST ASK HIM TOMORR-OW.
とぷ

I SHOULD HAVE ASKED SHIROU TO BREAK THIS PERFUME FOR ME BACK THEN!
ALTHOUGH I WAS A BIT SHAKEN FROM THAT CHASE KIRIHA AND CHISATO GAVE ME
ARG!!
ガチャ

EXCUSE US.
LET'S WASH TOGE-THER!
ACK!! W-W-WHY!?
ばしゃっ
KOK-UYOU
I SHALL SCRUB YOUR BACK.
JUST TO SHOW GRATI-TUDE FOR MY LIFE HERE.
YEAH~ JUST GRATITUDE FOR OUR LIVES HERE.
キラ キラ キラ
HEEEE! N-NO!
THEY LOOK LIKE HUNTERS STALKING THEIR PREY!!
KUK-URI
そろり
GODDESS OF THE LAND KUKURIHIME OOKAMI AND HER DISCIPLE KOKUYOU, WHO ARE STAYING AT KAZUYA'S HOUSE DUE TO VARIOUS CIR-CUMSTANCES.

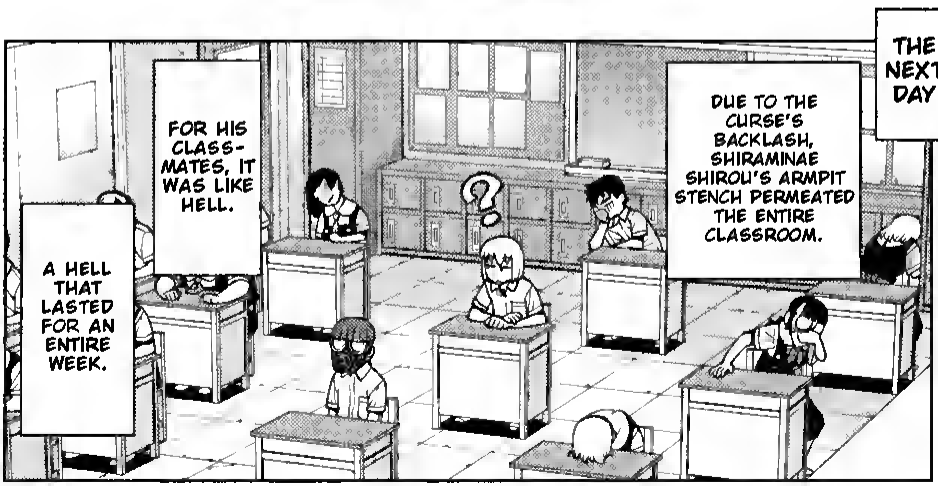
SO THIS IS AN AMASOGI'S STRENGTH... THE EFFECT DOESN'T EVEN WEAR OFF AFTER TAKING A BATH!
ACTUALLY, I JUST REMEMBERED I... UH... LEFT THE OVEN ON.
ALRIGHT, KAZUYA. LET US BECOME CLEAN TOGETHER.
WE CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE AND CLEAN EACH OTHER BY RUBBING OUR BODIES TOGETHER, KAZUYA.

STOP RIGHT THERE !!!
T-THIS SITUATION IS EVEN WORSE!
KAZUYA IS MINE!
NO, HE'S MINE!!
ぬっちゃ
ぬっちゃ
ぬっちゃ

ううううう…
かぷやくん♡
ぺろぺろ
かぷ
チュッ
かぷ♡
チュッ
つぁ！
O-OUUU ... THREE TIMES ...
IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE... THREE TIMES...
THE ORDER IN WHICH WE WILL UNCOVER YOUR SHELL, KAZUYA.
WHAT ...?
W-WHAT ...?
ISN'T THAT OBVI-OUS? ♡
DEFIN-ITELY!
OKAY, LET'S DECIDE ON AN ORDER.

SCISSORS!
AH... SHIROU ...
ROCK! PAPER!

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE ...
TO KEEP MY CHASTITY
BEFORE THIS GETS ANY WORSE


THE NEXT DAY
DUE TO THE CURSE'S BACKLASH, SHIRAMINAE SHIROU'S ARMPIT STENCH PERMEATED THE ENTIRE CLASSROOM.
FOR HIS CLASS-MATES, IT WAS LIKE HELL.
A HELL THAT LASTED FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK.

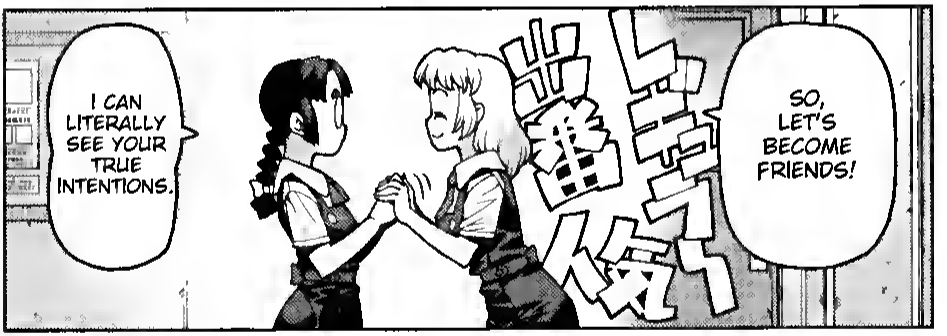
Legend

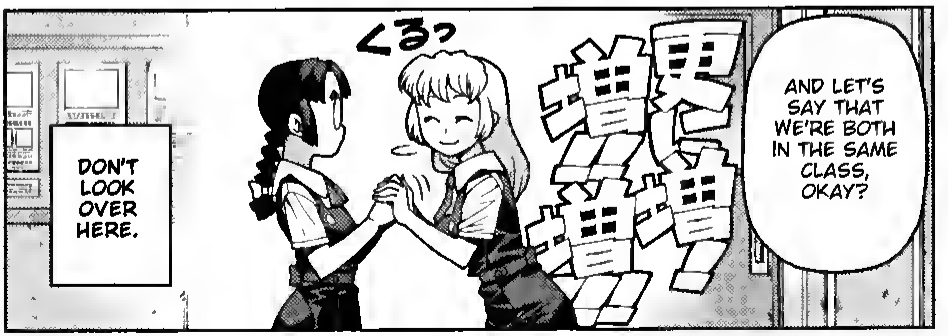
ポン。
HELLO, I'M CHIKAISHI CHISATO, WHOSE APPEARANCES HAVE DWINDLED RECENTLY.
"IT IS BETTER TO BE A LEGEND FOR ONE CHAPTER THAN TO BE A SIDE CHARACTER FOR A WHOLE BOOK."
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, CHISATO. A PERSON I RESPECT ONCE SAID THAT
THANK YOU~
みしっ。
BUT WHO ARE YOU?

Misago

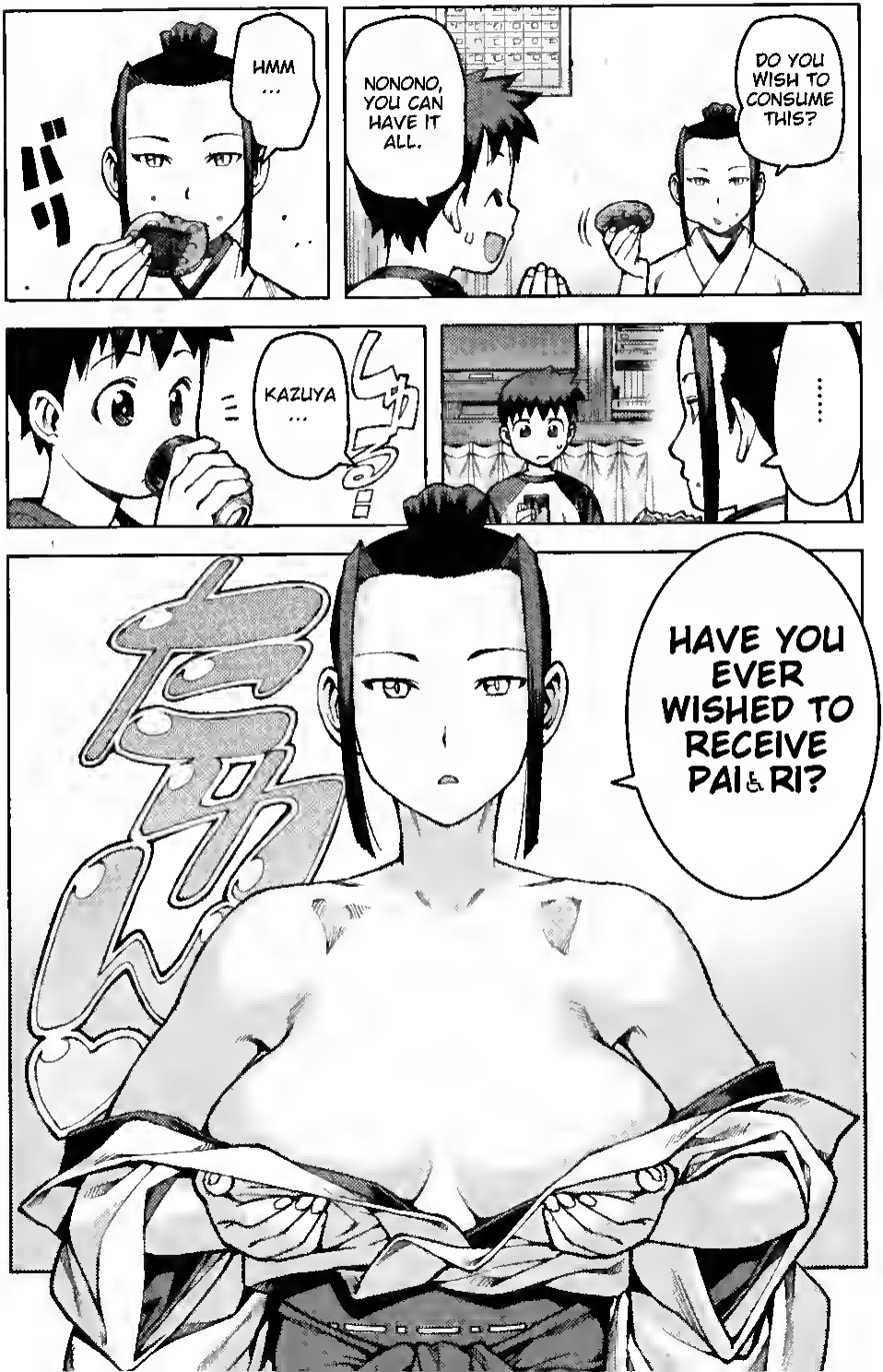
VOLUME ONE, PAGE 166
AND I WAS IN THE EXTRA CHAPTER, TOO!
I APPEARED IN CHAPTER ONE!
VOLUME ONE, PAGE 10.

HOW DID IT COME TO THIS ...
BUT I ONLY RE-APPEARED ONCE IN THE LAST FIVE VOLUMES ...


I CAN LITERALLY SEE YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS.
SO, LET'S BECOME FRIENDS!

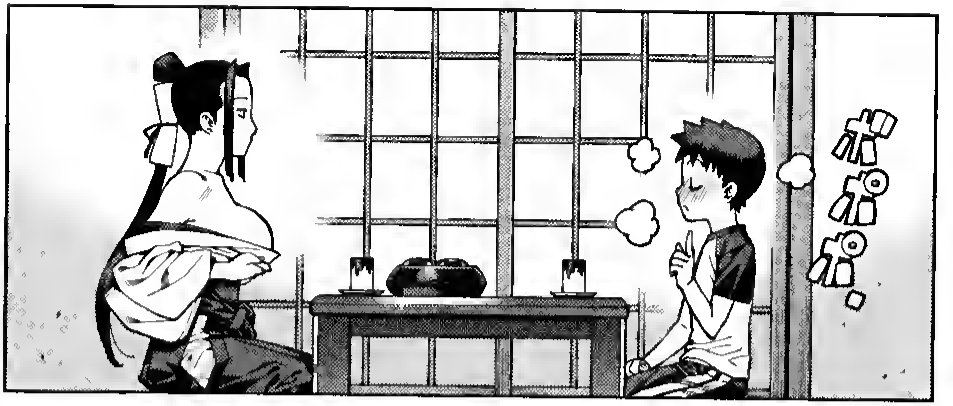

DON'T LOOK OVER HERE.
AND LET'S SAY THAT WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME CLASS, OKAY?

ずずずっ
バリッ ボリッ
ゴクン
ばりっばりっ
ムシャムシャ
ムシャムシャ
ず…
バリッ ボリッ
ばりっ ばりっ
ムシャムシャ
ムシャムシャ
BUT I NEED TO SAY SOME-THING …
I NEED TO SAY SOME-THING… I CAN'T BEAR IT LIKE THIS…
THE SITUATION WITH THOSE TWO… I'D NEVER IMAGINED IT BEFORE…


HMM ...
DO YOU WISH TO CONSUME THIS?
NONONO, YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL.
KAZUYA ...
.....
HAVE YOU EVER WISHED TO RECEIVE PAI&RI?

WHA WHA WHA WHA WHA
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN !?
HMM ...
I HAVE BEEN OBSERV-ING YOU ALL THIS TIME.
HOW YOU TREAT KUKURI REALLY KINDLY.
BUT EVEN IF I WANTED TO REPAY YOU, I HAVE NO MONEY.
ALL I HAVE IS THIS IMMO-DEST PAIR OF BREASTS.
SO, I WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING I HAVE LEARNED OF RECENTLY THAT WOULD MAKE A BOY HAPPY.

I AM A BEING ORIGINALLY FORMED FROM AN ANIMAL.
I CANNOT DISCERN BETWEEN THE HUMAN CONCEPTS OF BEAUTY AND COARSENESS.
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
TH...
I ALWAYS WISHED I HAD A CUTE APPEARANCE, LIKE KUKURI'S.
KOKUYOU IS A VERY CHARMING WOMAN!
HAVING BIG BREASTS IS A WONDERFUL THING!
KOKUYOU IS STRAIGHT-BACKED AND PRETTY
AND VERY TALL, LIKE A MODEL!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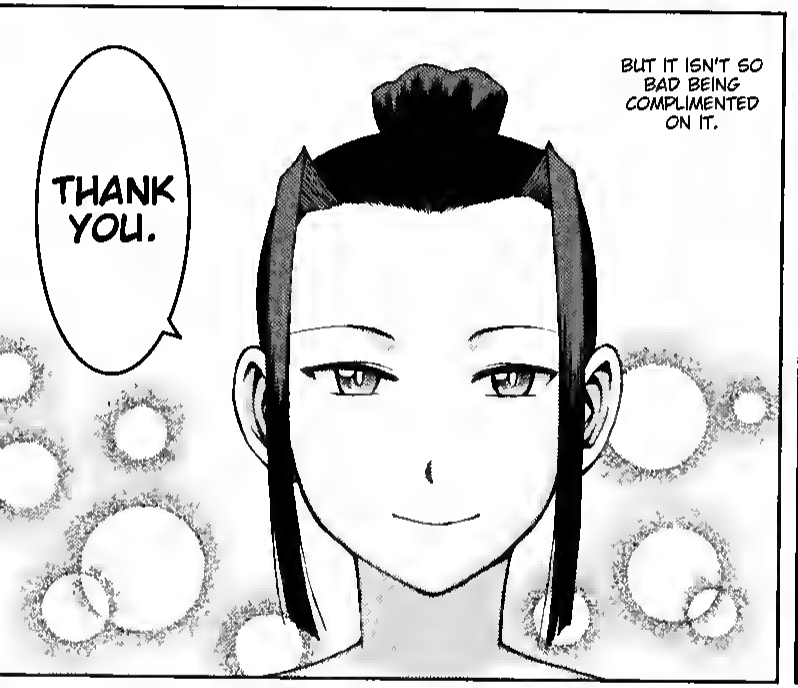
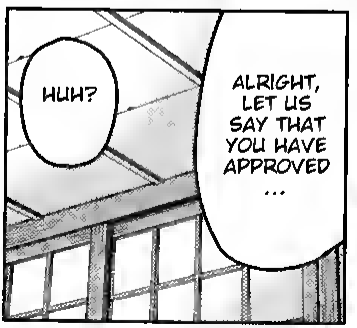

THANK YOU.
BUT IT ISN'T SO BAD BEING COMPLIMENTED ON IT.

I NEVER PAID MUCH HEED TO MY APPEAR-ANCE
HMM
うひぃ～


HUH?
ALRIGHT, LET US SAY THAT YOU HAVE APPROVED ...

WHEN SHE SMILES, SHE'S EVEN MORE ..
WOW ...

WE'RE BACK, KAZUYA~
KAZUYA~ WE'RE BA~CK
P-P-P-PAI&RI !!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, FOOL.
ATTEMPT! IT'S JUST AN ATTEMPT! SHE DIDN'T ACTUALLY DO IT YET!
WAIT, HOW DID KUKURI AND KOKUYOU LEARN ABOUT THAT?
Woaa...
Isn't it common sense?

It's too
much for
me...

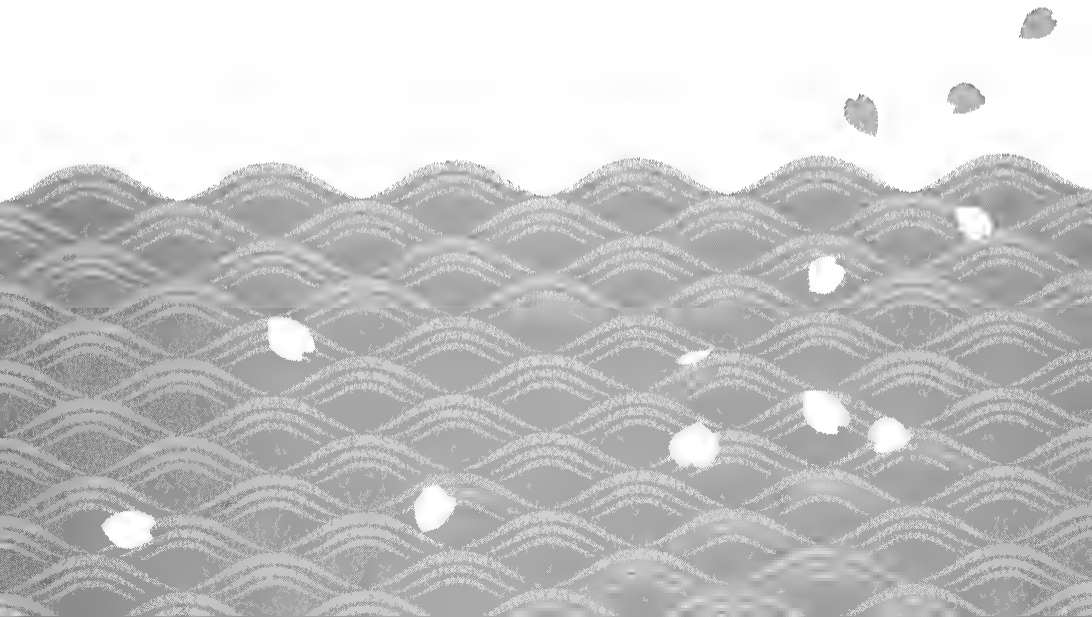
Afterword

Greetings, this is Hamada Yoshikazu.

Thanks to you, Tsugumomo has made it to volume 5.
Thank you very much.

Because the battle scenes went on for a while in volume 5, there were times I wasn't able to draw lewdish scenes. This was surprisingly hard to endure. I've realized that fanservice scenes are very important to my motivation. But nothing but bath scenes is too one-track, so I have to think of different situations.

I get the feeling that when drawing manuscripts with battles, all I've been thinking of is how best to get which character naked in which way.



I want to bring those delusions to life in my story-boards for volume 6.
First of all, wondering how to get Sunao naked has been fun.

Come to think of it, the number of characters has steadily increased.
The lopsided rate of scenes where the various characters appear has become severe.

If I progress the story, the character count will increase yet again.
I hope I can handle it okaaay.

Well then, see you in volume 6.

High
Action Comics
COMIC HIGH!'S BRAND

つぐもも　5

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